

WORLD WAR HULK™

MARVEL

HEROES FOR WIRE



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HEROES FOR HIRE WORLD WAR HULK



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HEROES FOR HIRE

WORLD WAR HULK

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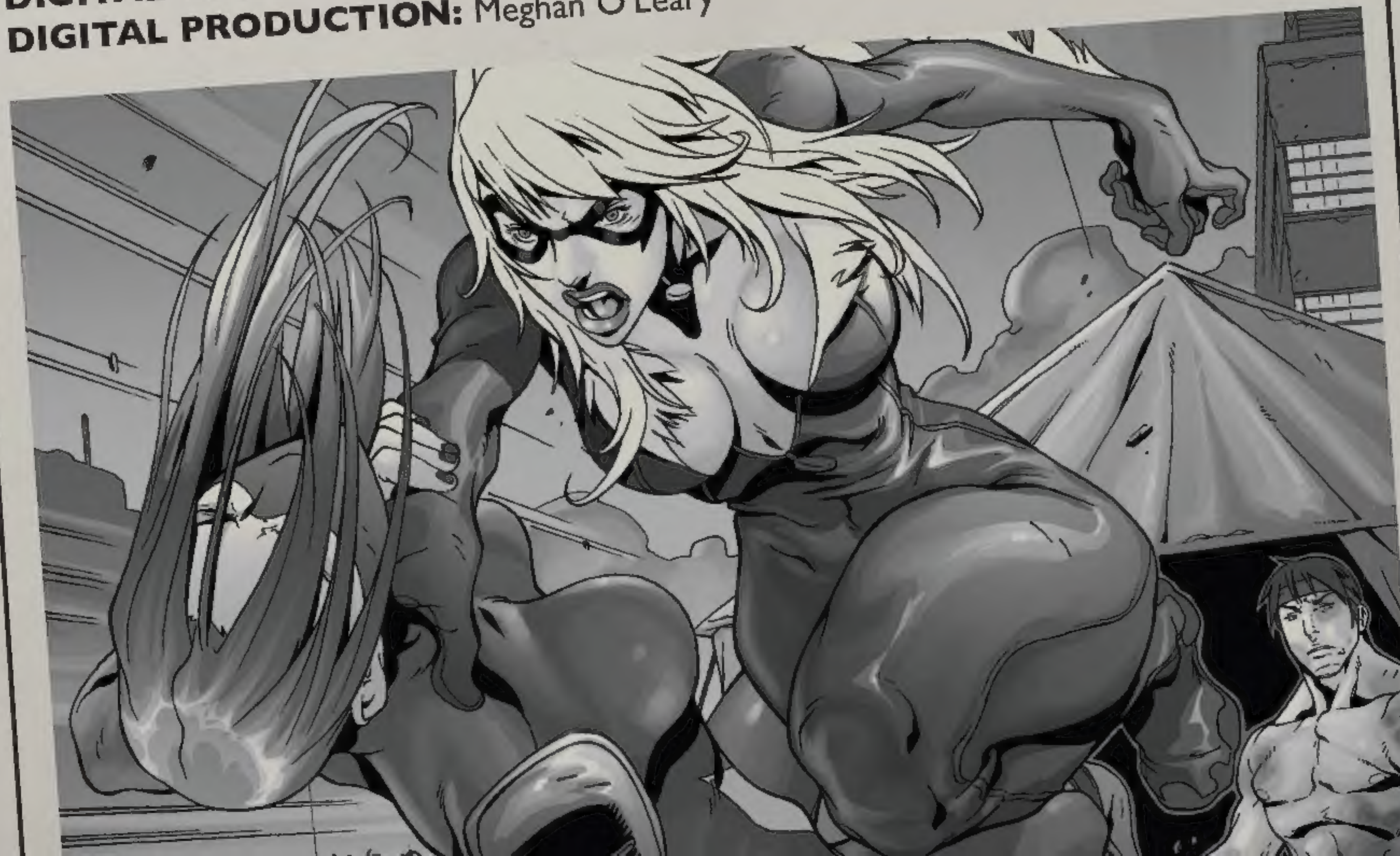
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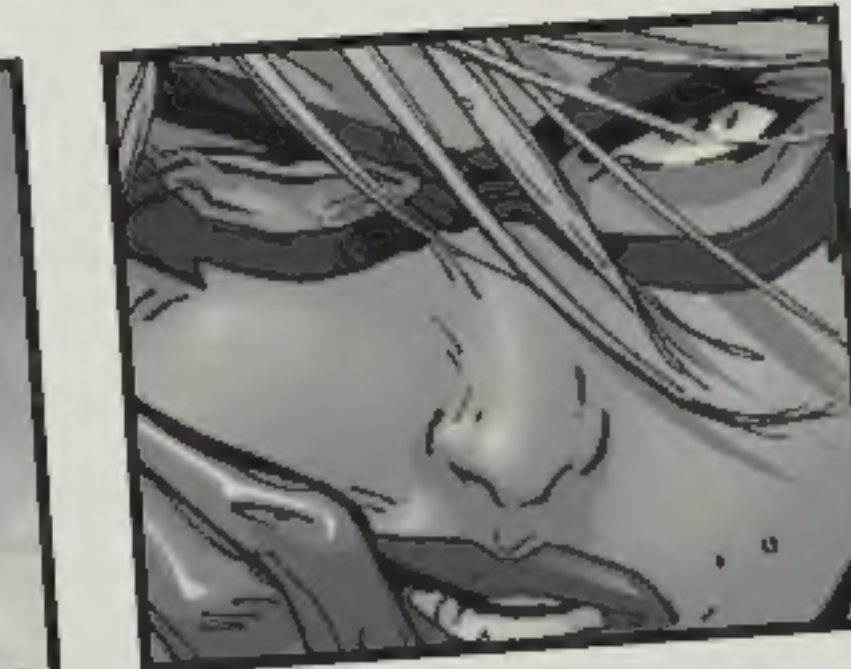
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MISTY KNIGHT



COLLEEN WING



BLACK CAT



SHANG-CHI



TARANTULA



HUMBUG



PALADIN

Cat up a tree?
Burglars at your door?
Interdimensional portal open in your basement, spewing out unspeakably
and evil minions?

Call

**HEROES
FOR HIRE**



Moon Boy

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We got Moon Boy
with us

While trying to save the life of an innocent, Doctor Bruce Banner was caught in the blast of a gamma bomb and became
**THE INCREDIBLE
HULK**
...a rampaging monster with near-limitless power.
Fearing the threat he posed to humanity, Earth's most powerful heroes shot Hulk into space.
Landing on a faraway planet, Hulk became an Emperor and fell in love.
But the shuttle that sent Hulk away from Earth exploded, killing millions of people, including Hulk's queen
and the baby growing inside of her.
Filled with rage, Hulk and his Warbound warriors have landed on Earth, to bring revenge
upon those he holds responsible for destroying his world...





JUST OUTSIDE
NEW YORK CITY...

HOW'S
MOONBOY
DOING?

WE TOOK
HIM AWAY FROM
HIS DINOSAUR, MISTY.
HIS ONLY FRIEND ON
THE PLANET...HOW DO
YOU *THINK*
HE'S DOING?

COLLEEN,
LOOK...I KNOW I
WAS HARSH BACK IN
THE SAVAGE LAND, BUT
WE WERE PAID TO
DO A JOB...

GOOD
THING THE
BOAT S.H.I.E.L.D.
PROVIDED CAME
WITH A JUMP
JET...THE SEAS
LOOK A LITTLE
CROWDED
DOWN THERE.

YES, THE
SHIPS APPEAR
TO MAKE
HASTE.

OH, *GREAT* TIME FOR YOU TO START
TALKING TO ME AGAIN, SHANG-CHI...
YOU FINALLY GOTTEN OVER THE
PUMMELING I GAVE YOUR VOW
OF CELIBACY?

MARIA,
I...

WAIT--
LOOK AT
THIS...

WHERE
ARE THEY
ALL COMING
FROM?

I MEAN,
ALL I DID WAS PATCH
YOU UP. THAT'S IT. IF YOU
THINK I WAS PERVING OUT
THEN THAT'S YOUR DIRTY
MIND AT--

PALADIN,
BE QUIET.

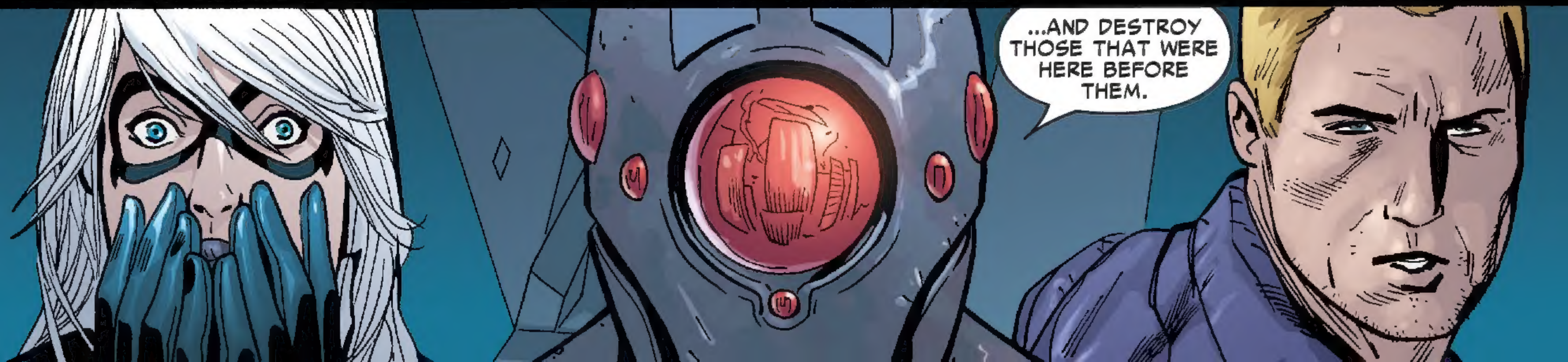
BUGS,
SPACE-
TIRED AND
HUNGRY...

FROM
A PLANET
HARSH AND
BARREN
THEY
COME...

WHOA...
THOSE
FREIGHTERS
ARE GETTIN'
IT...

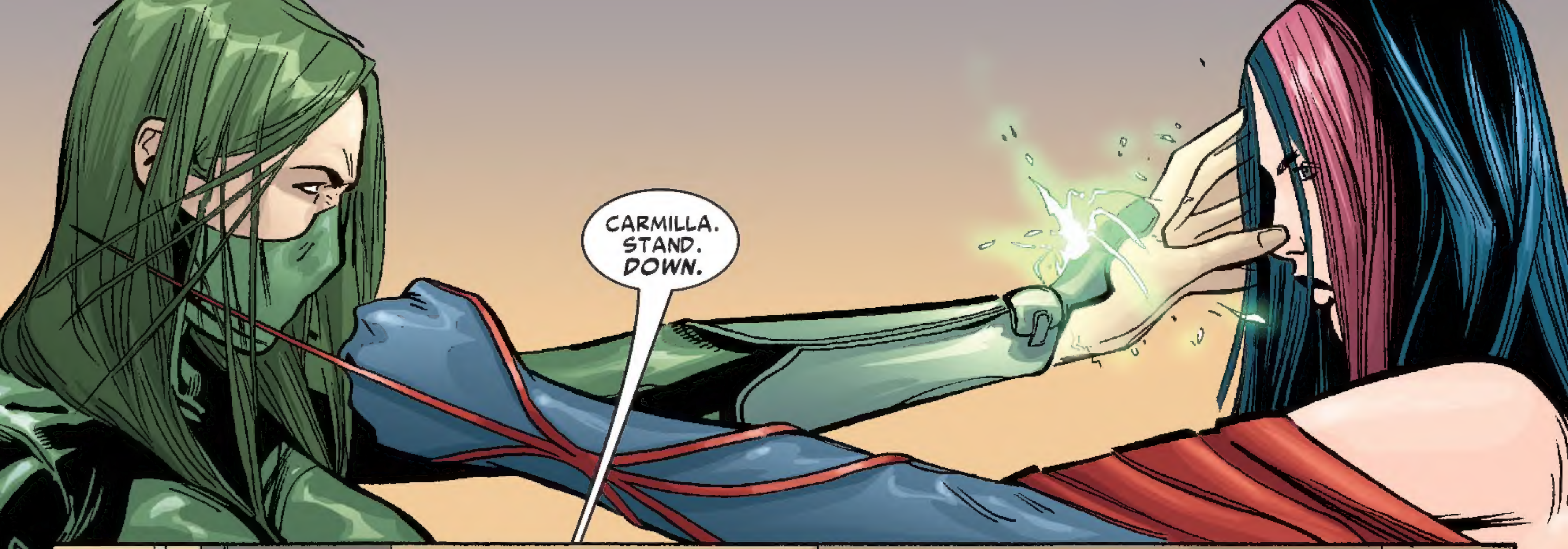


INFESTATION

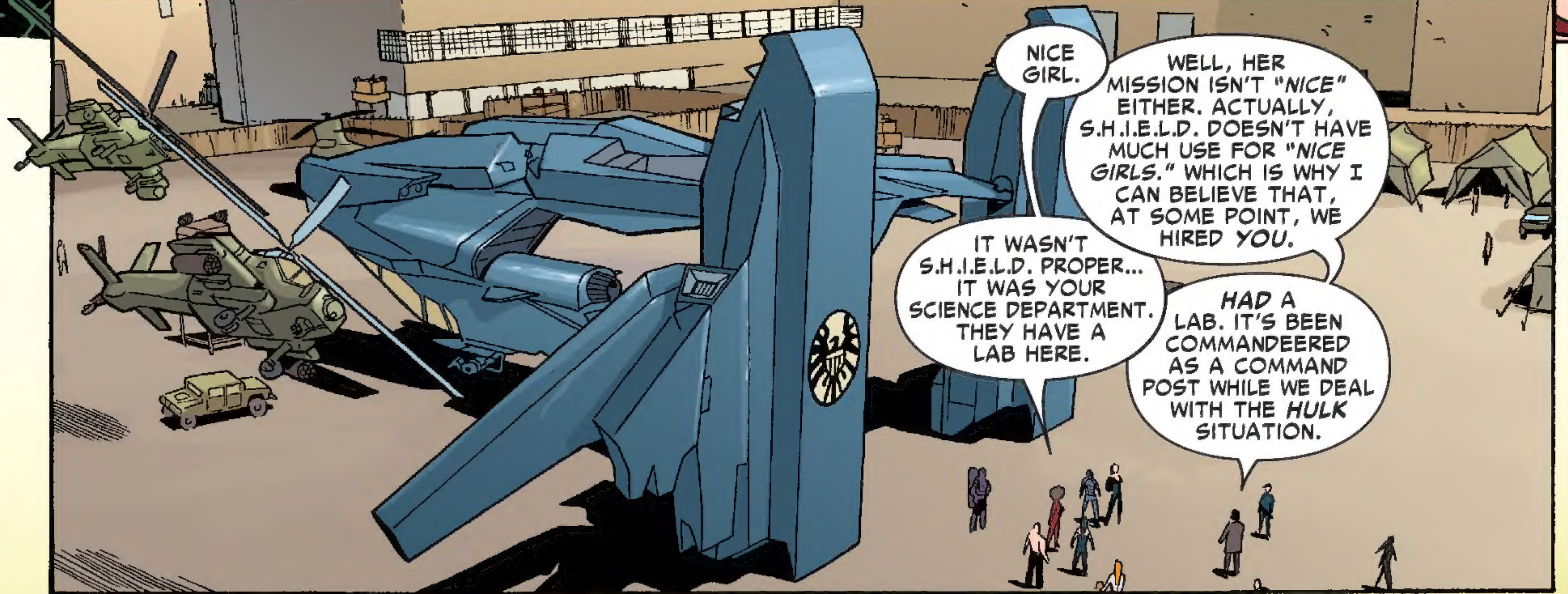








CARMILLA.
STAND.
DOWN.



NICE
GIRL.

WELL, HER
MISSION ISN'T "NICE"
EITHER. ACTUALLY,
S.H.I.E.L.D. DOESN'T HAVE
MUCH USE FOR "NICE
GIRLS." WHICH IS WHY I
CAN BELIEVE THAT,
AT SOME POINT, WE
HIRED YOU.

IT WASN'T
S.H.I.E.L.D. PROPER...
IT WAS YOUR
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.
THEY HAVE A
LAB HERE.

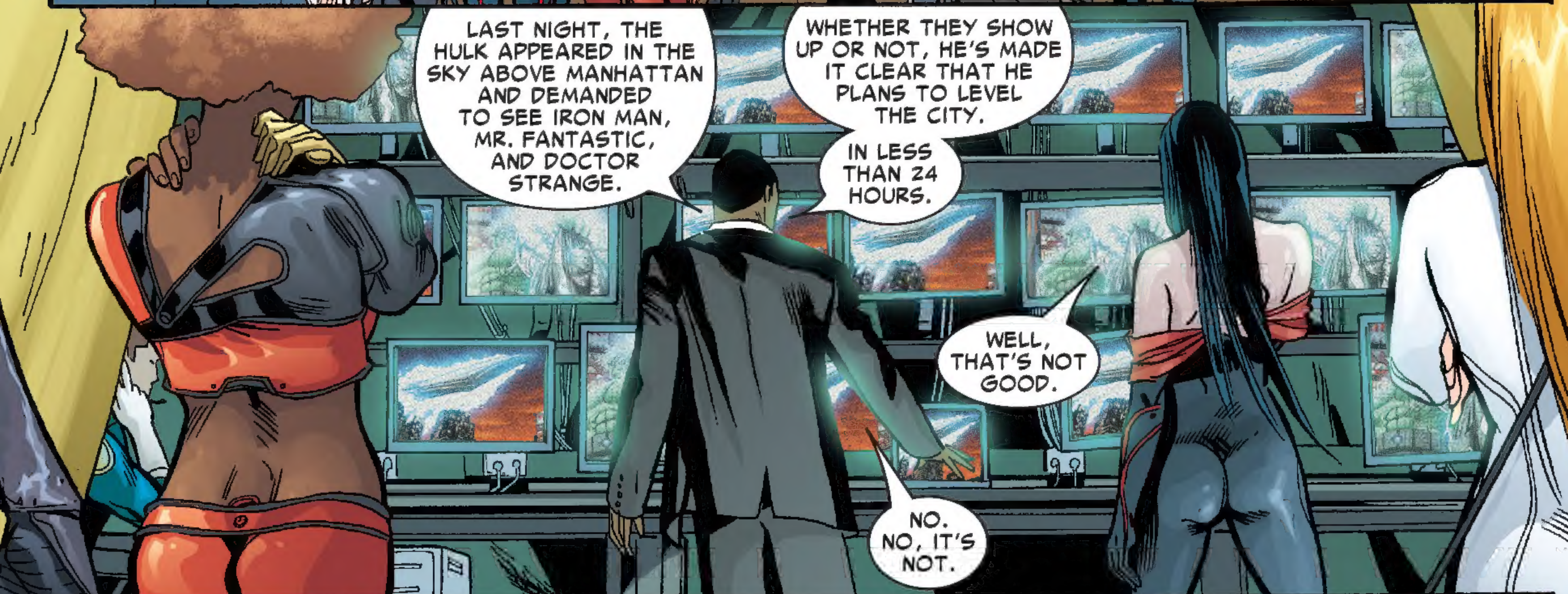
HAD A
LAB. IT'S BEEN
COMMANDEERED
AS A COMMAND
POST WHILE WE DEAL
WITH THE HULK
SITUATION.



"HULK
SITUATION"?

DID YOU
PEOPLE DROP
OFF THE FACE OF THE
EARTH FOR THE PAST
FEW DAYS?

WELL,
KIND OF.
YEAH.



LAST NIGHT, THE
HULK APPEARED IN THE
SKY ABOVE MANHATTAN
AND DEMANDED
TO SEE IRON MAN,
MR. FANTASTIC,
AND DOCTOR
STRANGE.

WHETHER THEY SHOW
UP OR NOT, HE'S MADE
IT CLEAR THAT HE
PLANS TO LEVEL
THE CITY.

IN LESS
THAN 24
HOURS.

WELL,
THAT'S NOT
GOOD.

NO.
NO, IT'S
NOT.



YOU NEED NOT FEAR
THE MONSTER. FEAR THE
WARRIOR-BEETLE AND
HIS QUEEN.



AND JUST WHO ARE YOU?



OH, THAT'S HUMBUG.

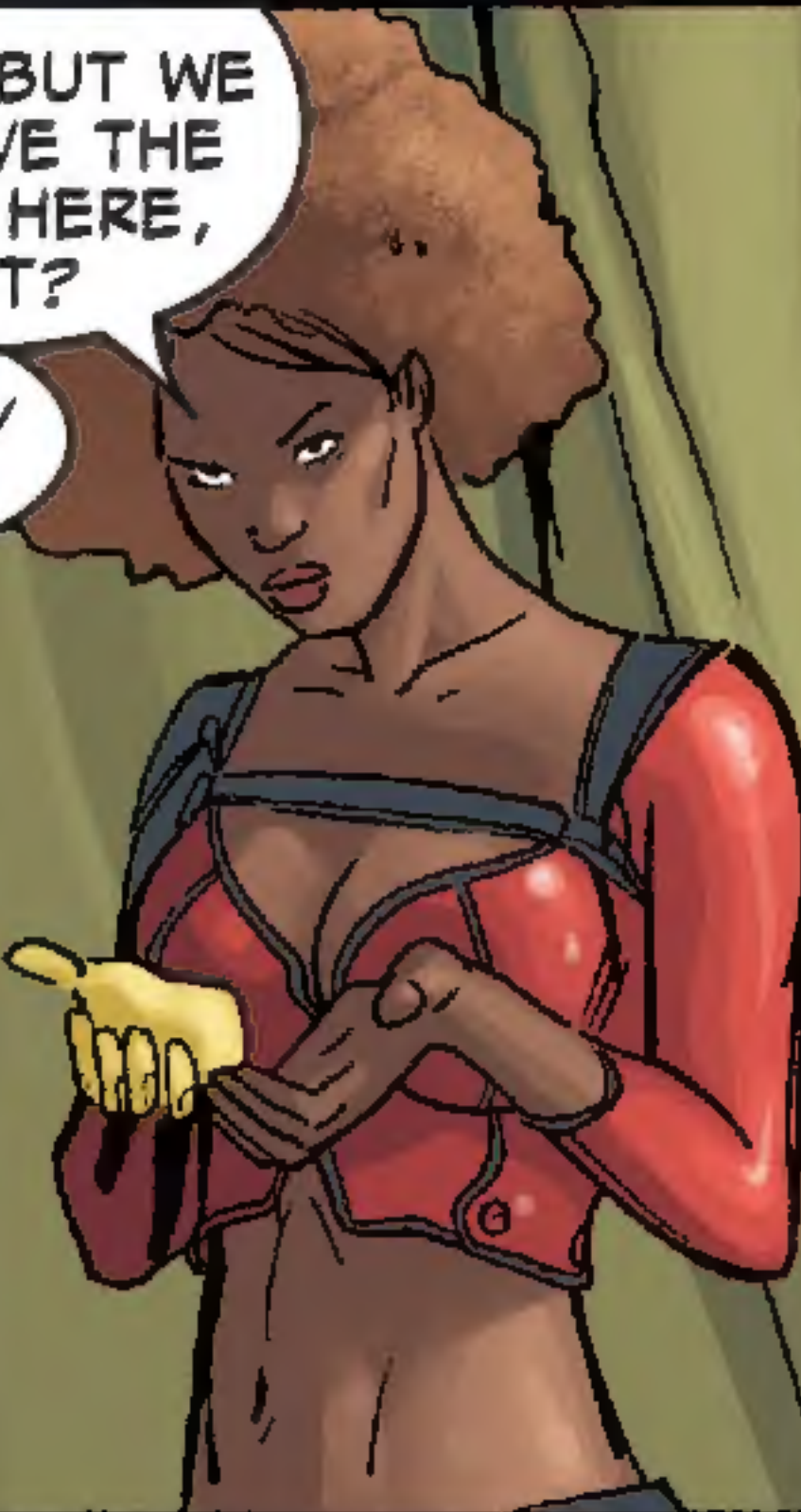
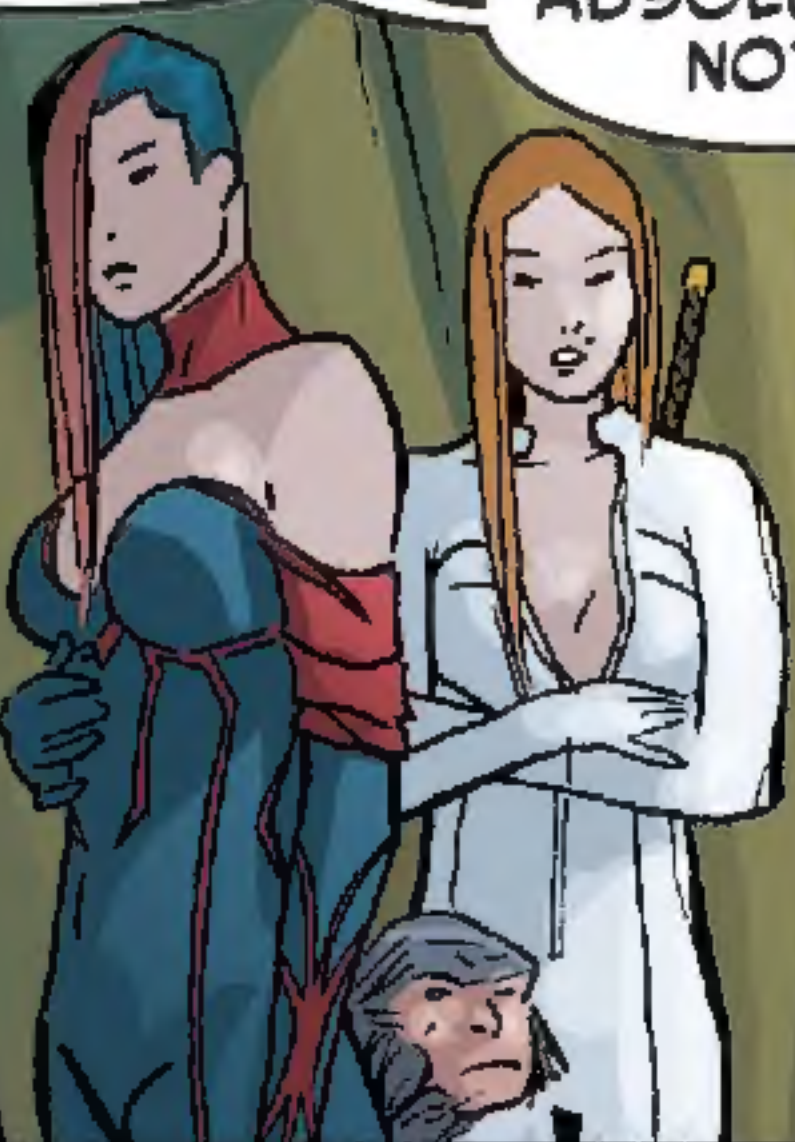
"HUMBUG."
WELL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSIGHT. I'LL TAKE IT UNDER ADVISEMENT, "HUMBUG."



REGARDLESS, YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE SITUATION IS RESOLVED TO COMPLETE OUR TRANSACTION.

O-O-KAY...BUT WE CAN LEAVE THE MONKEY HERE, RIGHT?

ABSOLUTELY NOT.



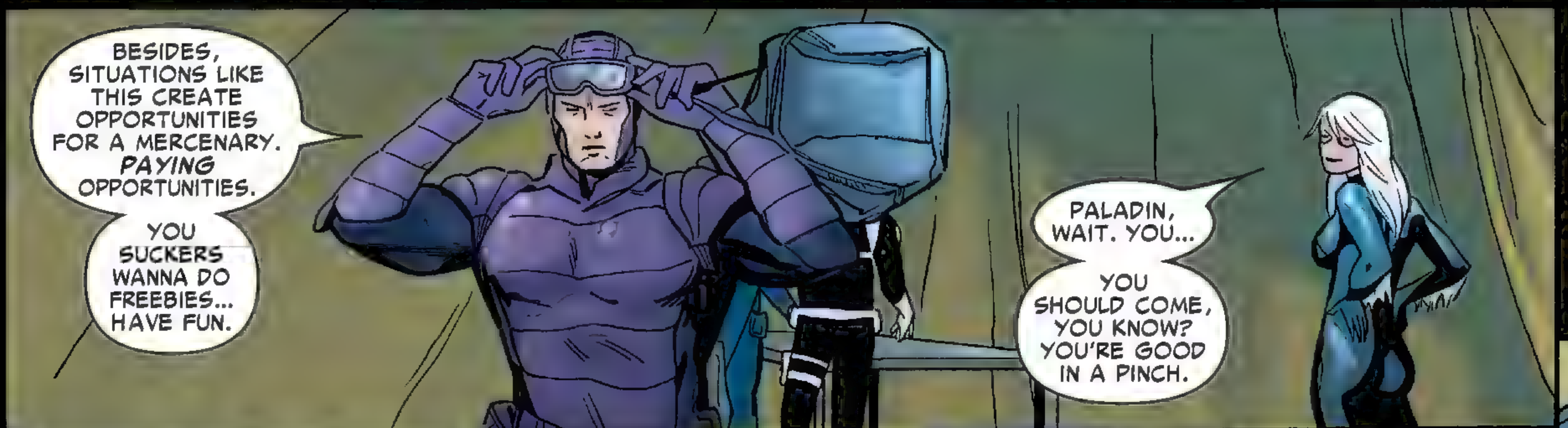
WHAT?!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!

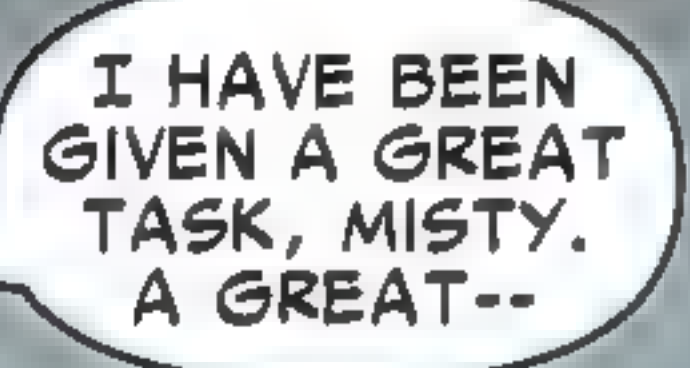
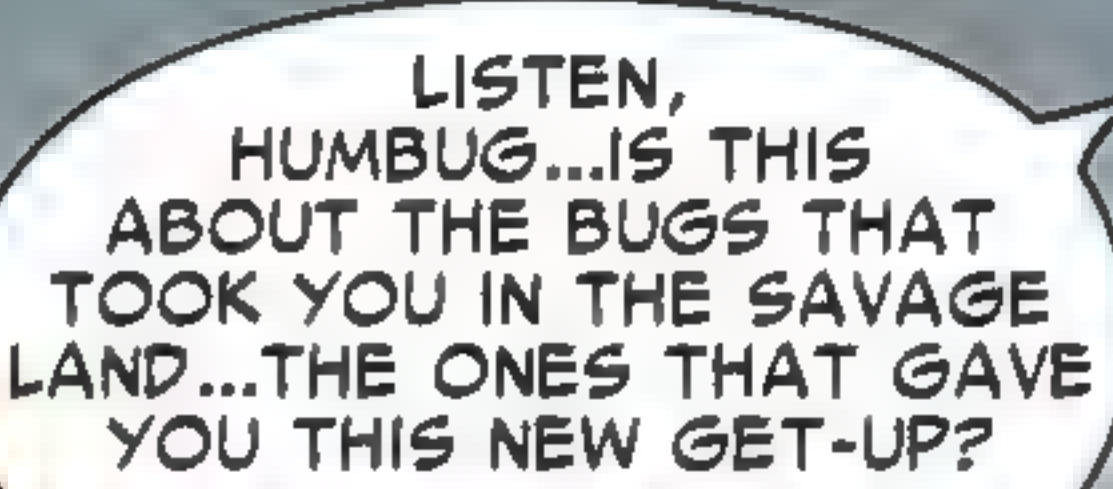
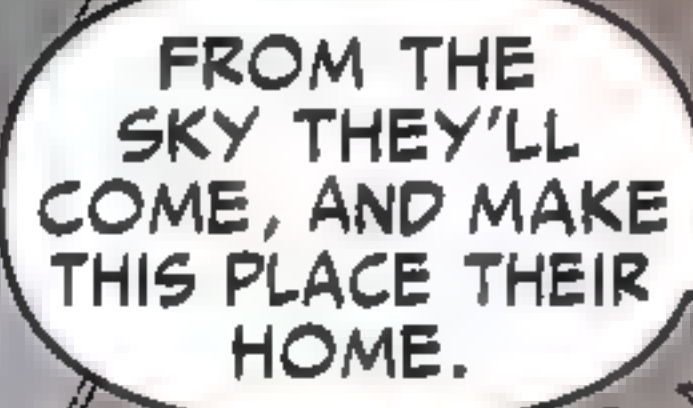


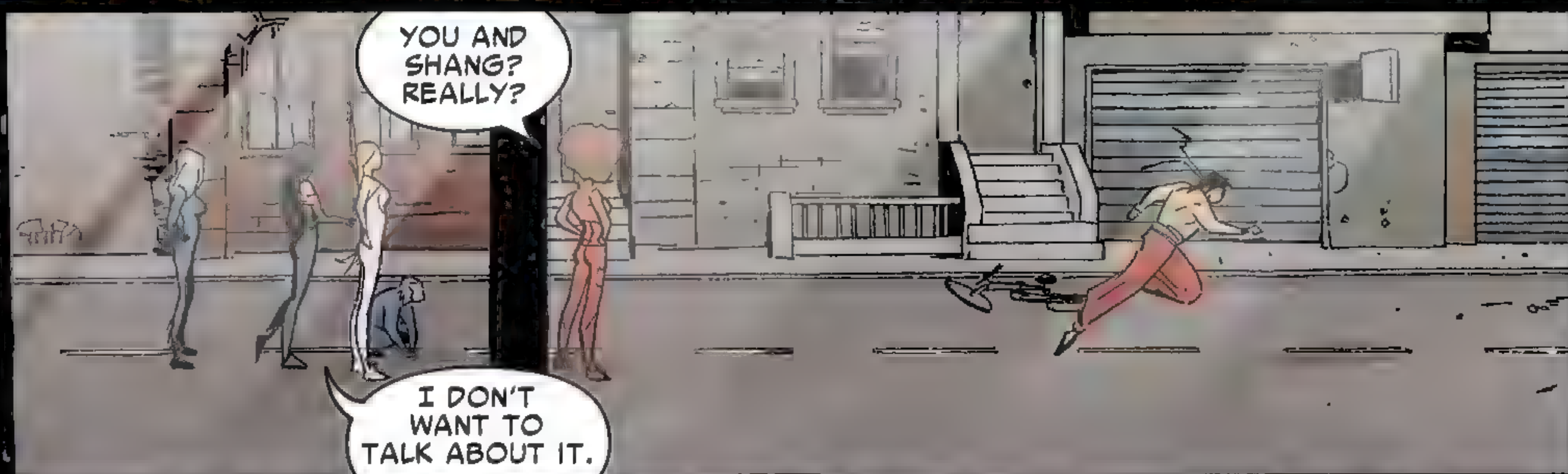
IRON MAN HAS ASKED THAT ALL SUPER HEROES ASSIST IN THE EVACUATION.

YOU ARE HEROES, RIGHT?











HNNNNNNNNNN.

CHEMICAL
MEMORIES...CHEMICAL
THOUGHTS...CHEMICAL
DESIRES...



HUMBUG...
WHAT MADNESS
TAKES YOU, MY
FRIEND?

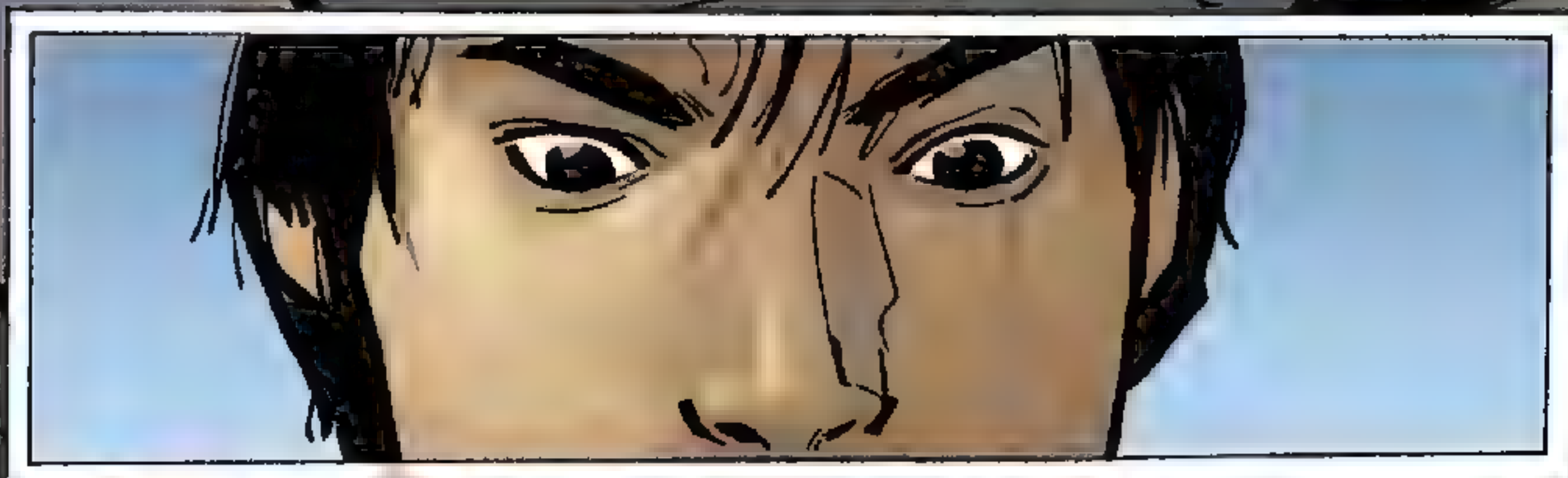
THEY
TALKKKKKKK...
LIKE 'SECTS OF
THIS WORLD...

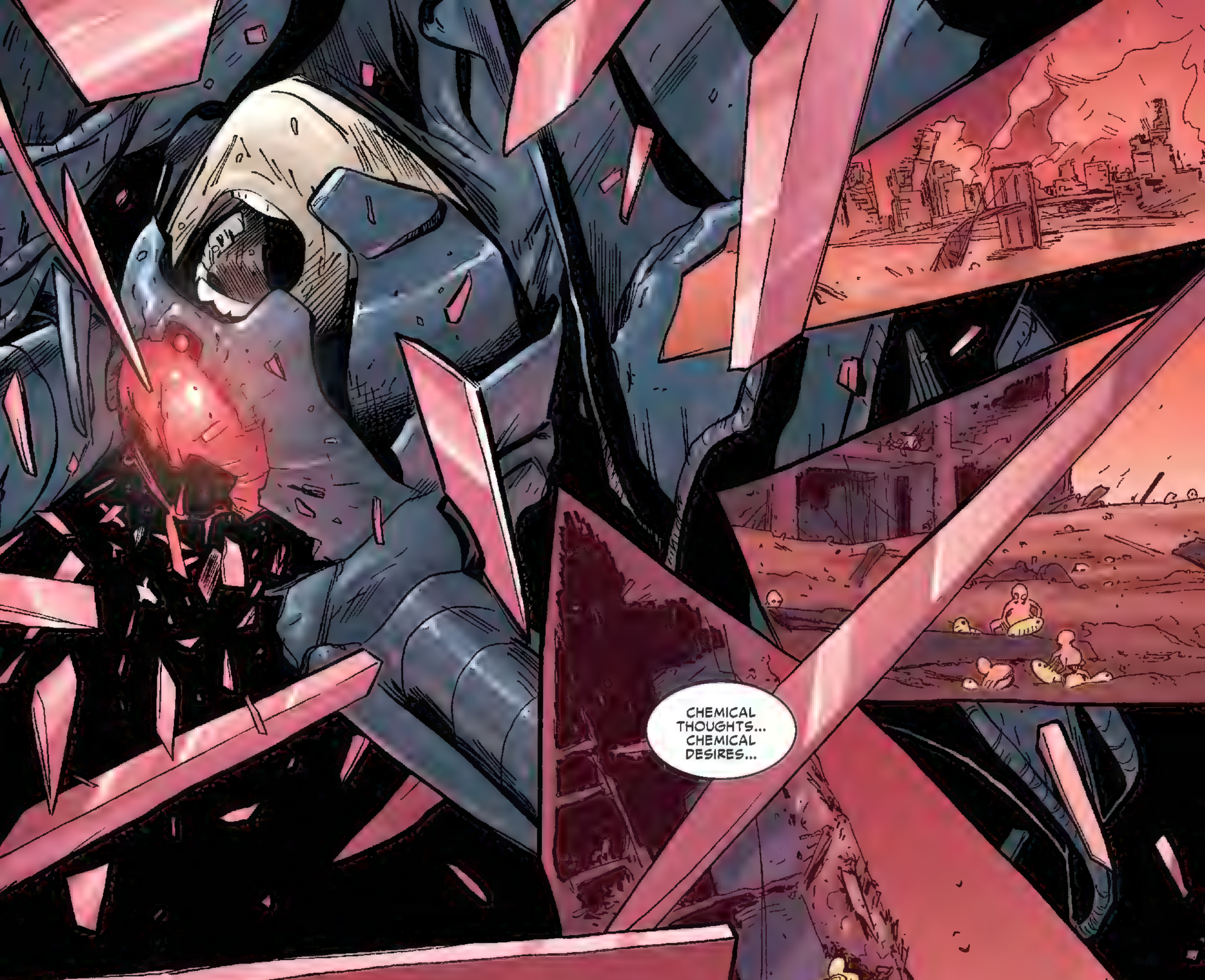
BUT SO MUCH
STRONGER...



WHO,
FRIEND?
WHO?!

THEMMMMM...





CHEMICAL
THOUGHTS...
CHEMICAL
DESIRES...



THEY ARE
CHEMMING
ME...



THEY
MAKE A WORLD
RULED BY
INSECTS...

REST NOW,
FRIEND...



WHAT
HAPPENED?

PERHAPS
IT IS BEST IF
YOU SEE FOR
YOURSELF.



AMAZING...
LIKE GIANT
ANTS BUILDING
A COLONY...

FELICIA,
YOU HAVE TO
SEE THESE
THINGS...

D-DO THEY
LOOK ANYTHING
LIKE THAT?

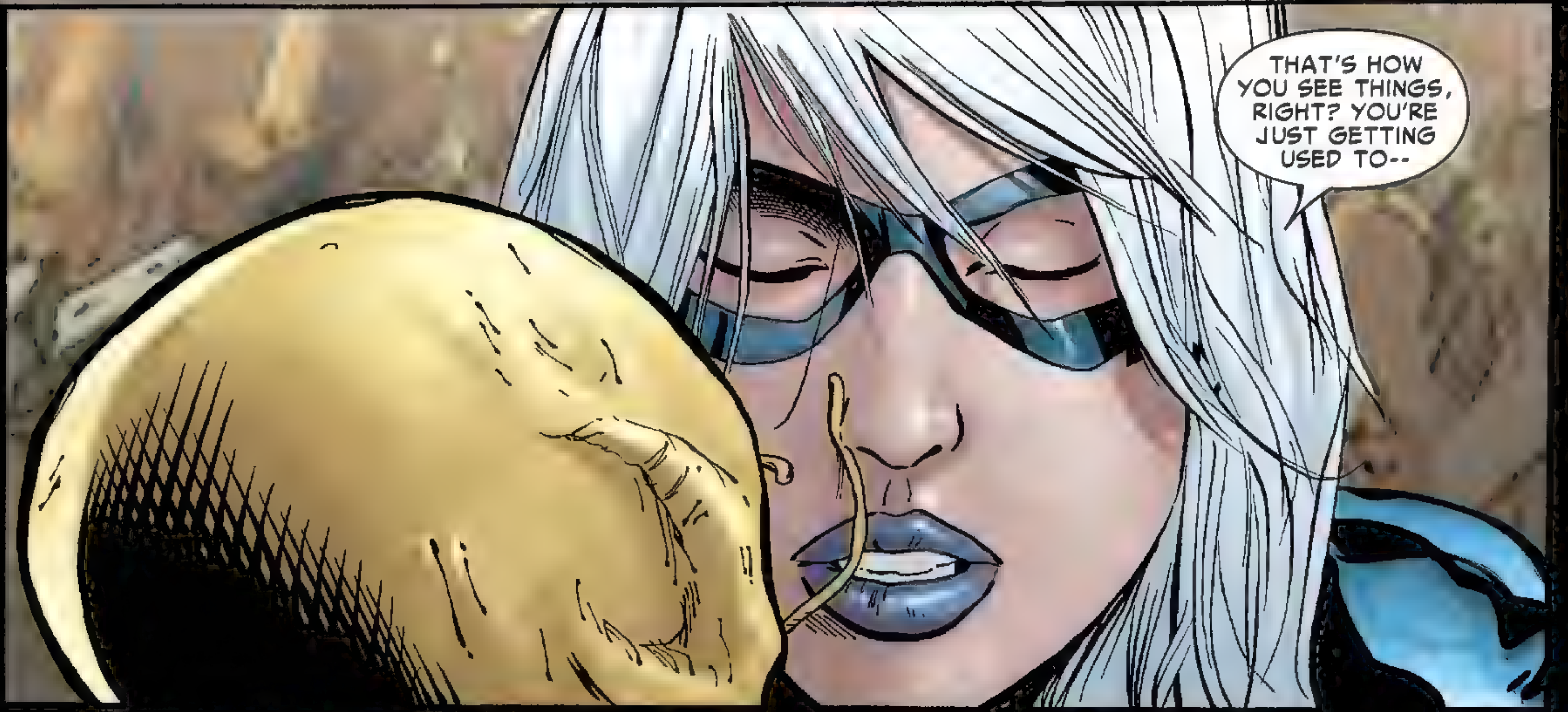
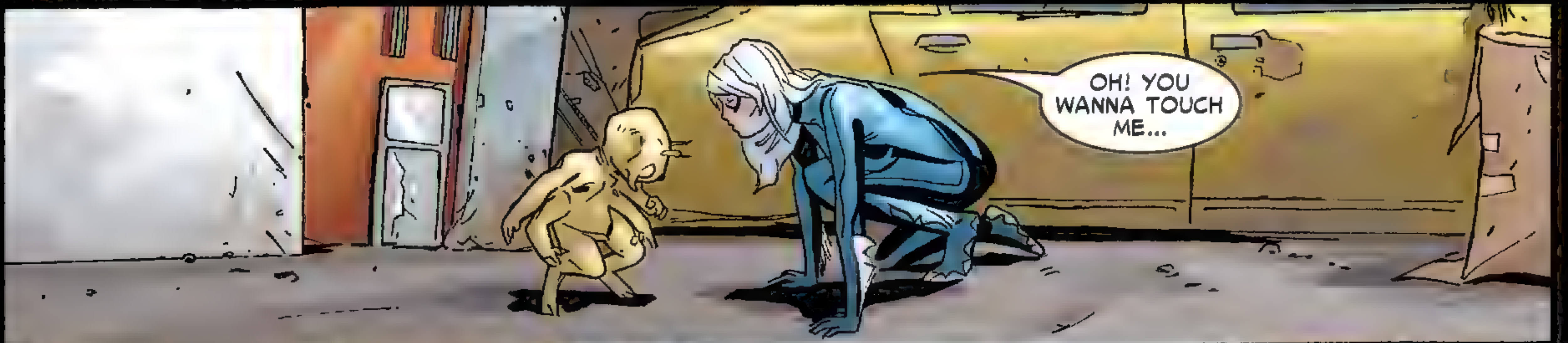
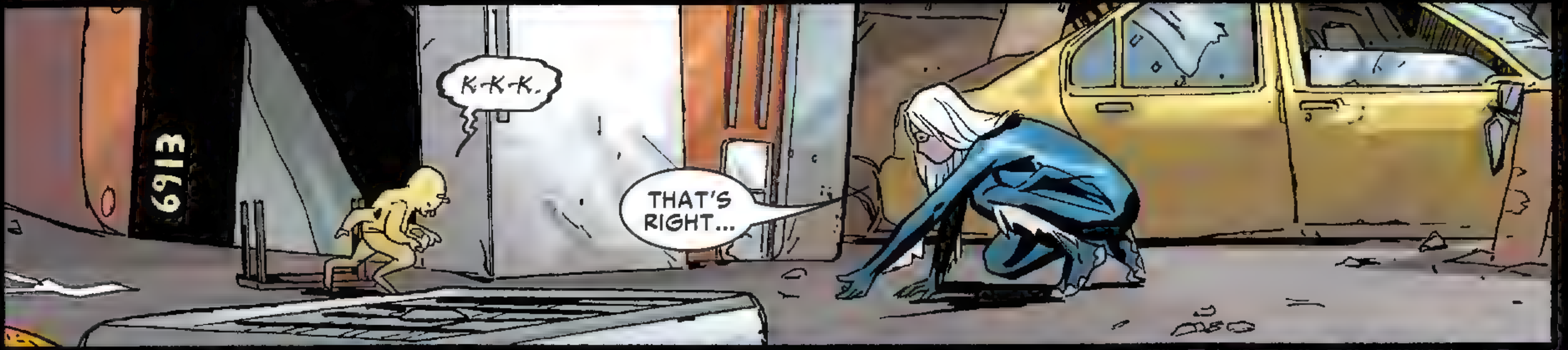
FREEMAN

SKAGG

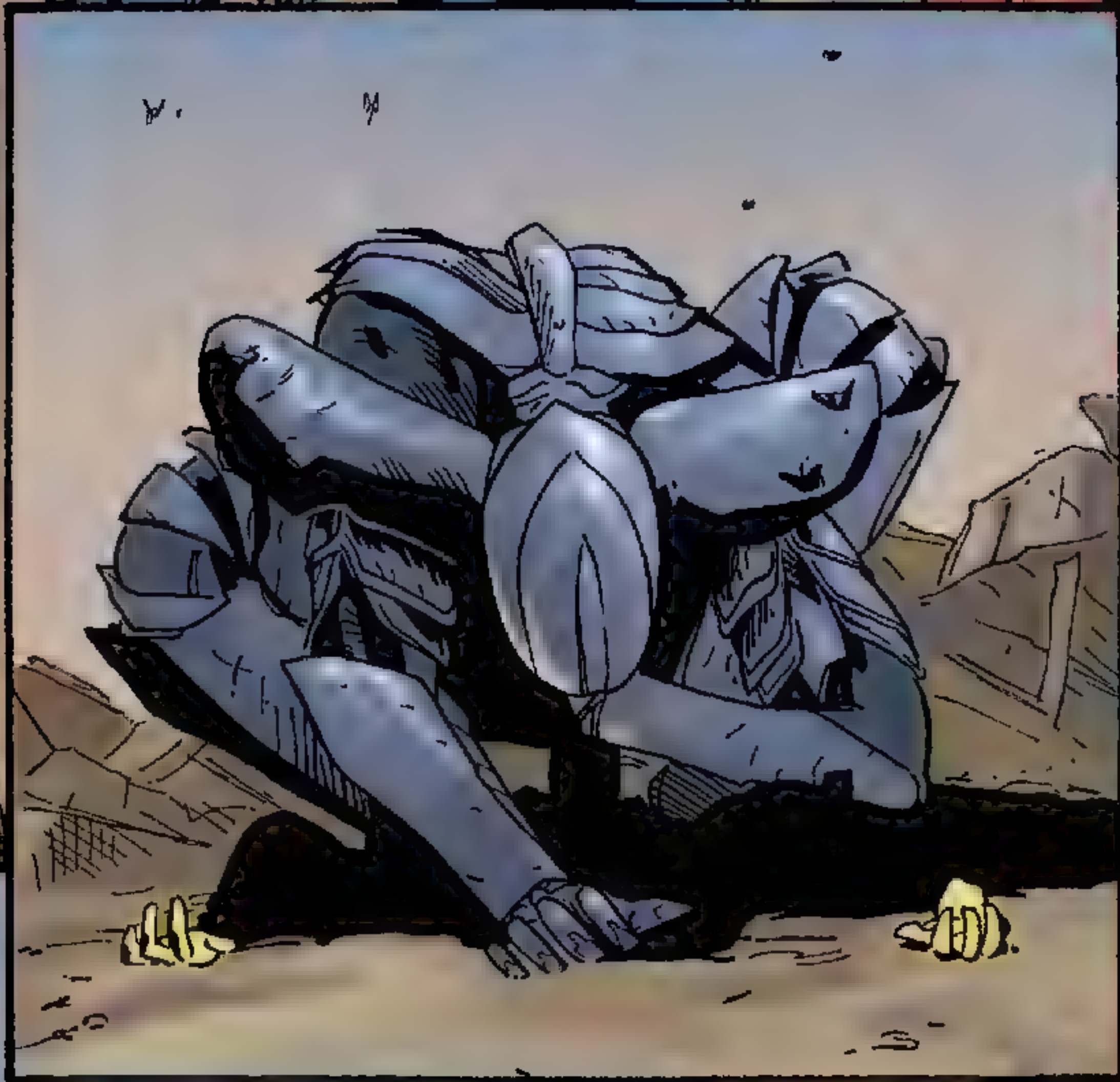
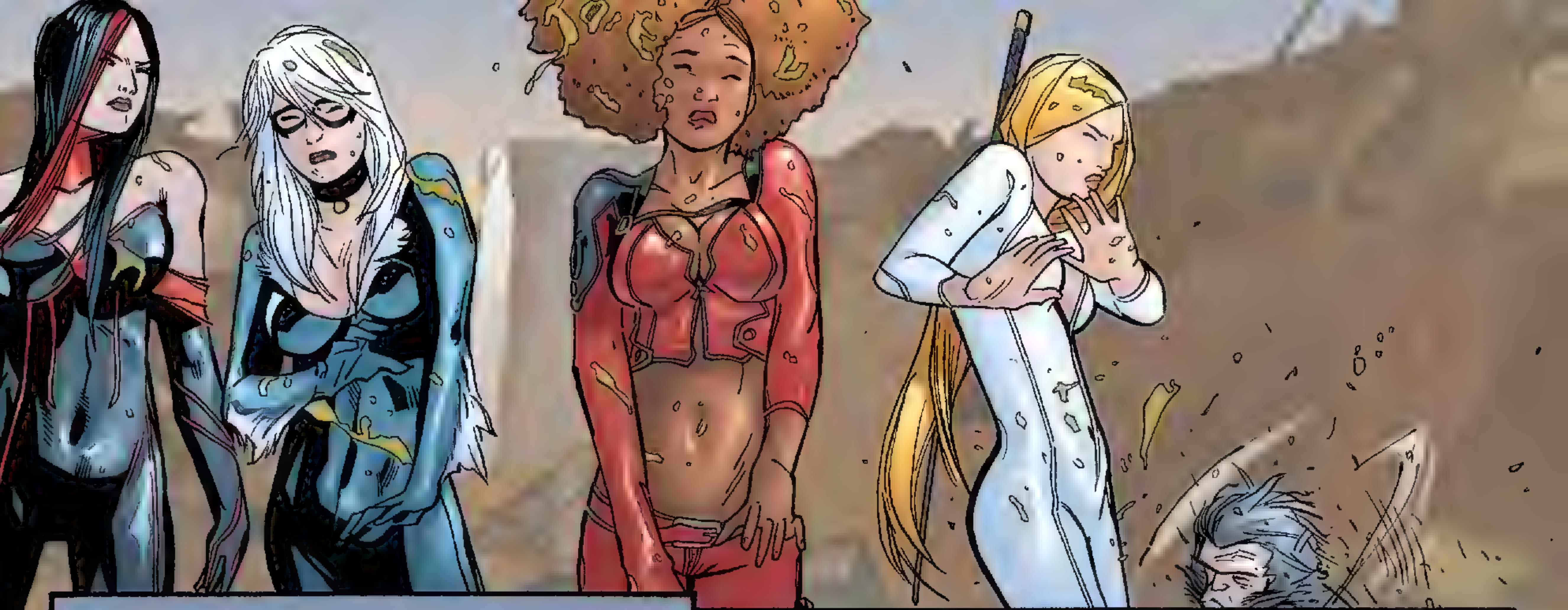


####! IF
HUMBUG IS RIGHT
ABOUT THESE
THINGS, WE CAN'T
LET IT WARN
THE OTHERS...

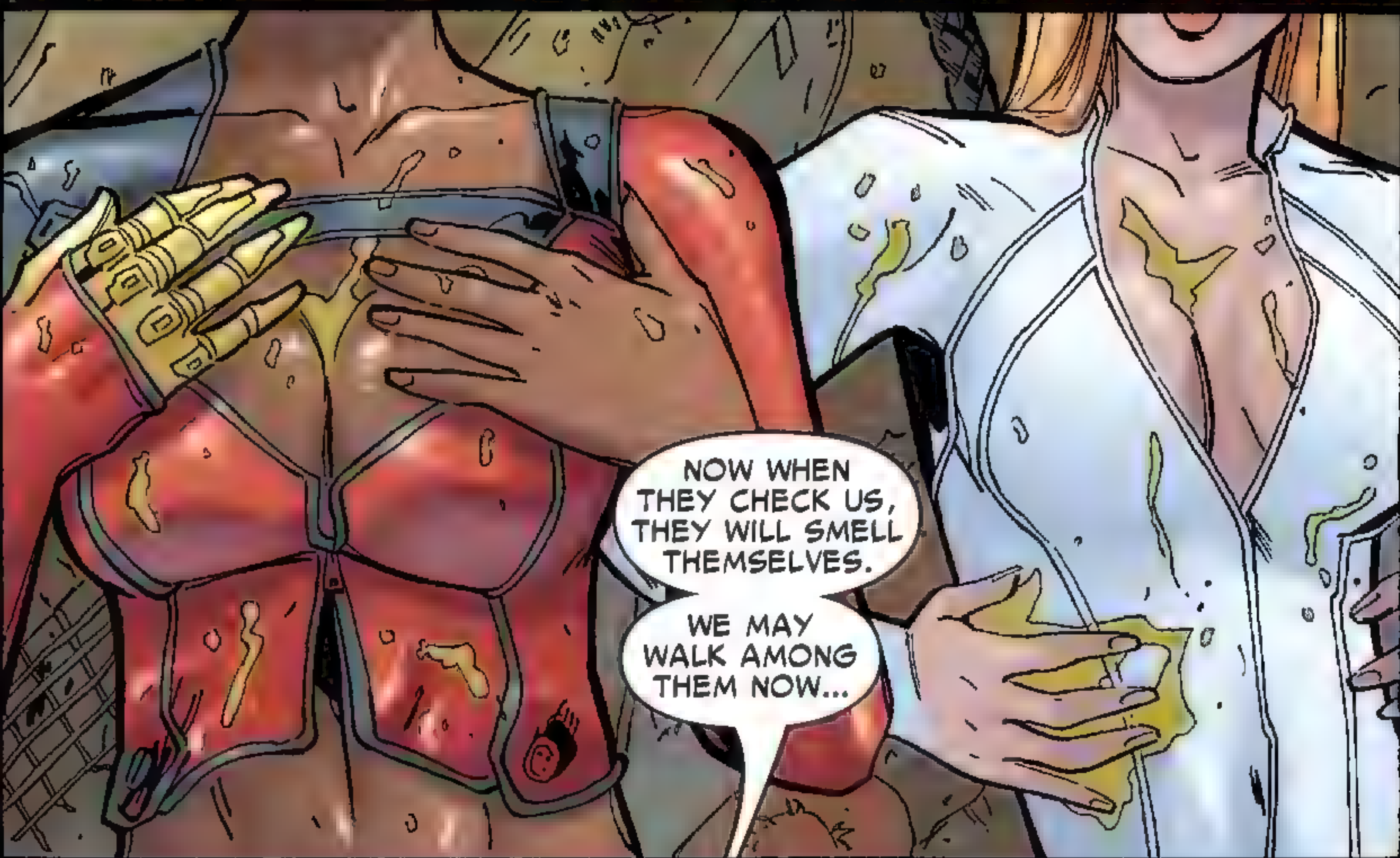
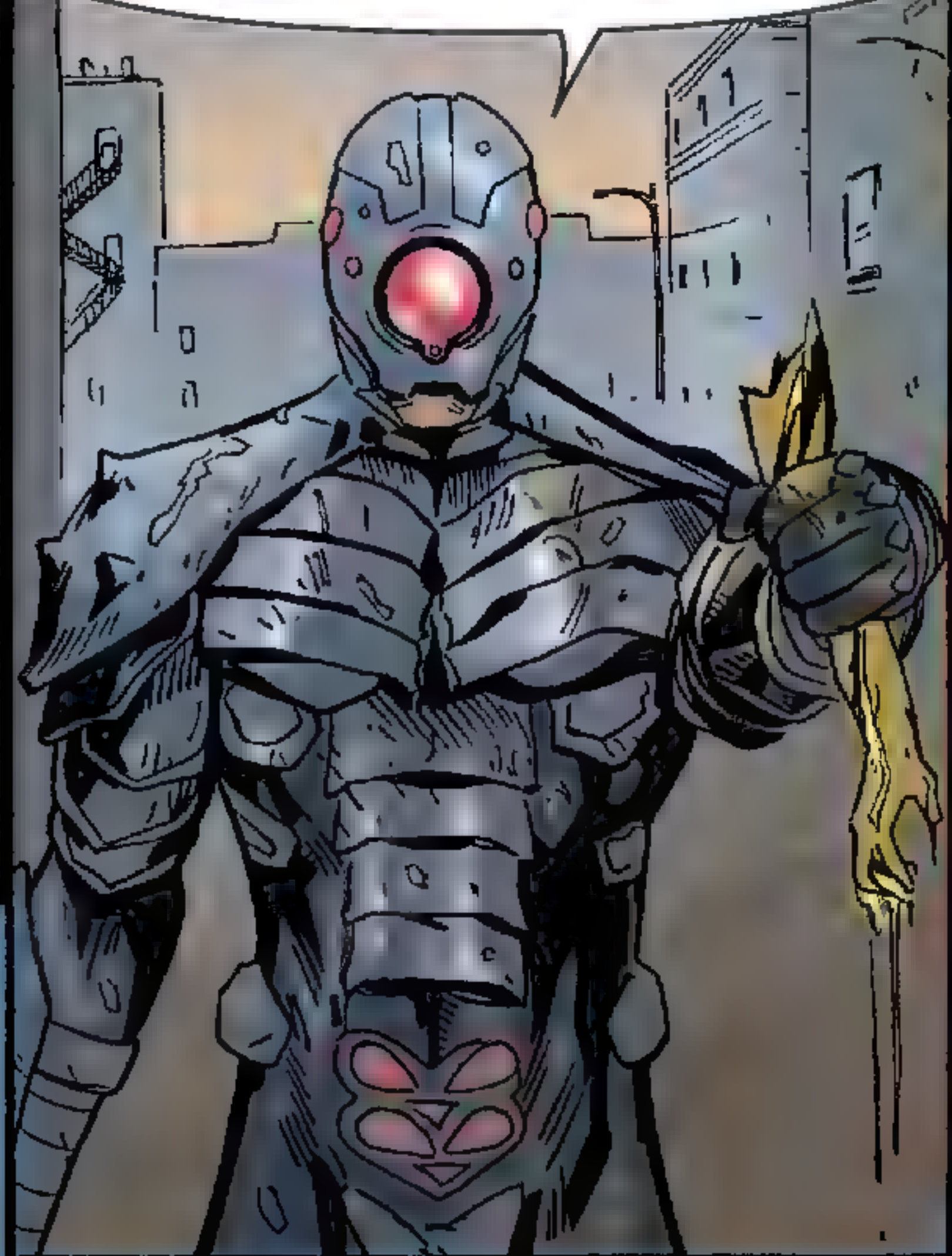
SHHHH!
CAN'T YOU
TELL? HE'S
TERRIFIED.







THE HIVELING TOOK YOUR SCENT WITH HIS ANTENNAE. SMELT YOU WERE HUMAN. SMELT YOU WERE THE ENEMY.



NOW WHEN THEY CHECK US, THEY WILL SMELL THEMSELVES.

WE MAY WALK AMONG THEM NOW...



COME. WE MUST FOLLOW THEM HOME.

TO BE CONTINUED...

I GET CHILLS MAKING MY WAY ACROSS MANHATTAN FROM THE S.H.I.E.L.D. BASE.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR EVACUATION. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO RECEIVE OUR HELP IS THINK ABOUT IT.

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE CITY SO QUIET, SO EMPTY BEFORE.

HEROES FOR HIRE KILLER INSTINCTS

ALMOST LIKE THE WHOLE ISLAND IS HOLDING HER BREATH.

OUR TELEPATHS WILL LOCATE YOU AND A TEAM WILL HELP YOU OFF THE ISLAND...

THE BUILDINGS STAND STILL, DARK AND ALONE...

...EXCEPT FOR TITANS IN THE SKY ABOVE...

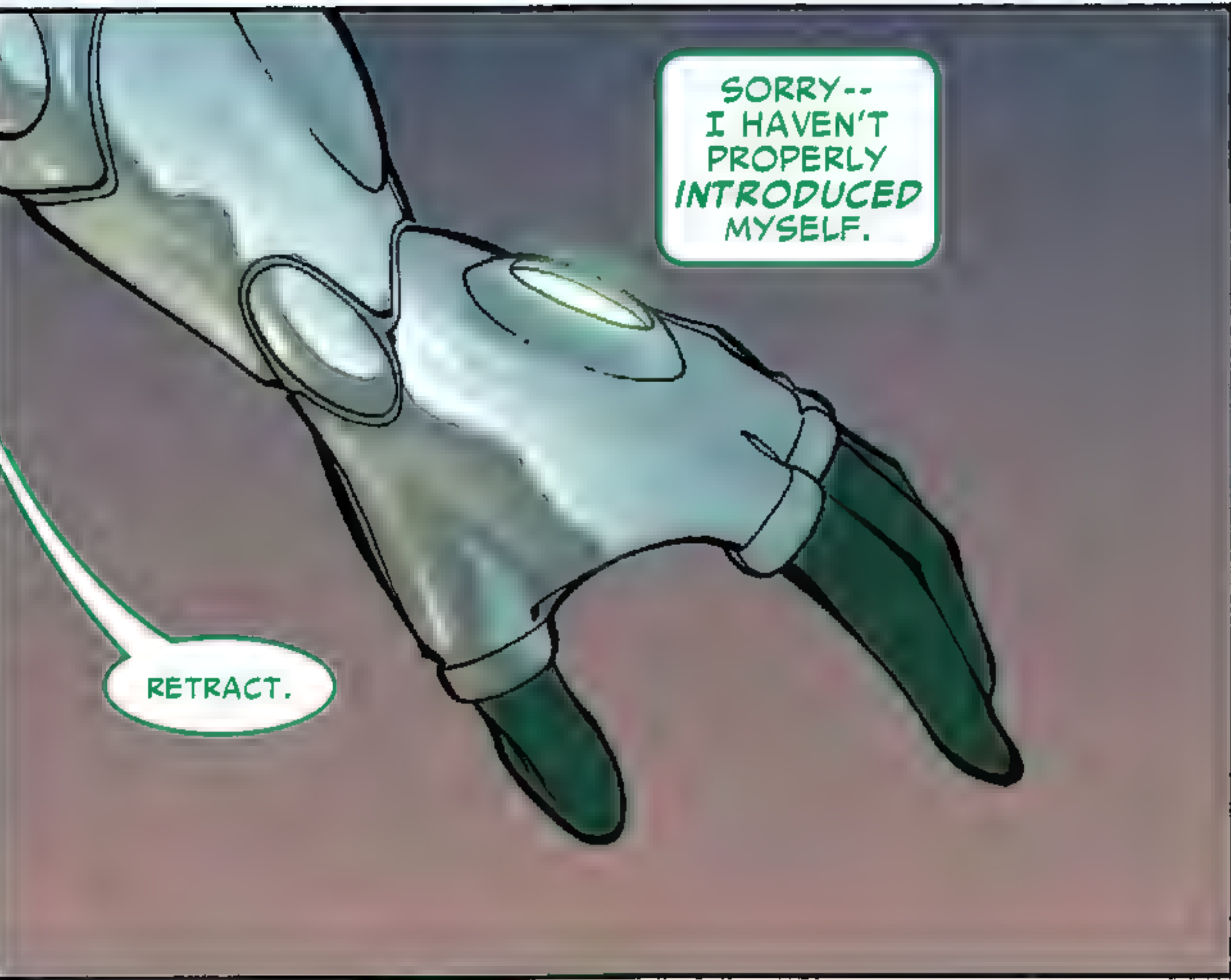
YOU HEAR THAT, PHIL?

THE SUPER-PIGS CAN READ OUR THOUGHTS!

WE'RE GONNA GET SO TOTALLY BUSTED!

WE WILL IF YOU DON'T SHUT YOUR FREAKIN' TRAP, CHARLEY!

...AND THE VERMIN SCURRYING DOWN BELOW.



SORRY--
I HAVEN'T
PROPERLY
INTRODUCED
MYSELF.

RETRACT.



SNAP!



MY DRIVER'S
LICENSE SAYS
MY NAME IS
**CARMILLA
BLACK.**

MY BIRTH
CERTIFICATE
SAYS I'M
**THASANEE
RAPPACCINI.**

(LONG
STORY.)

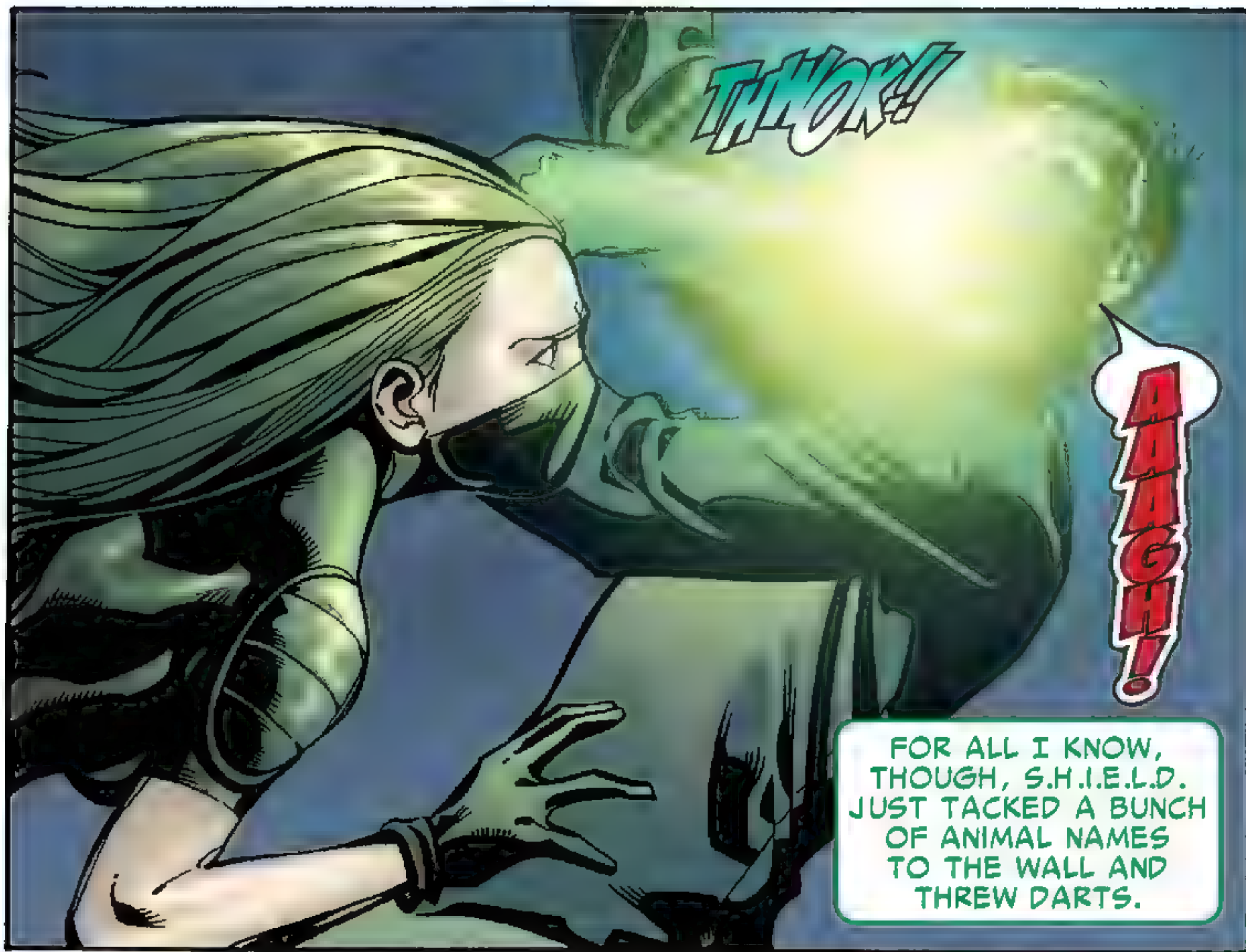
BUT EVER SINCE
I WAS RECRUITED
BY **S.H.I.E.L.D.**,
MY **CODENAME**
DESCRIBES
ME BEST:



SCORPION.

I ASSUME I GOT
ASSIGNED THE NAME BECAUSE
ADVANCED IDEA MECHANICS
GENETICALLY ENGINEERED ME TO
BE IMMUNE TO ALL KNOWN
**CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND
NUCLEAR WEAPONS...**

...AND MY
**SUPER-LYMPHATIC
SYSTEM** ABSORBS TOXINS
AND RELEASES THEM VIA A
STINGING BLAST THROUGH
MY LEFT ARM.



FOR ALL I KNOW, THOUGH, S.H.I.E.L.D. JUST TACKED A BUNCH OF ANIMAL NAMES TO THE WALL AND THREW DARTS.

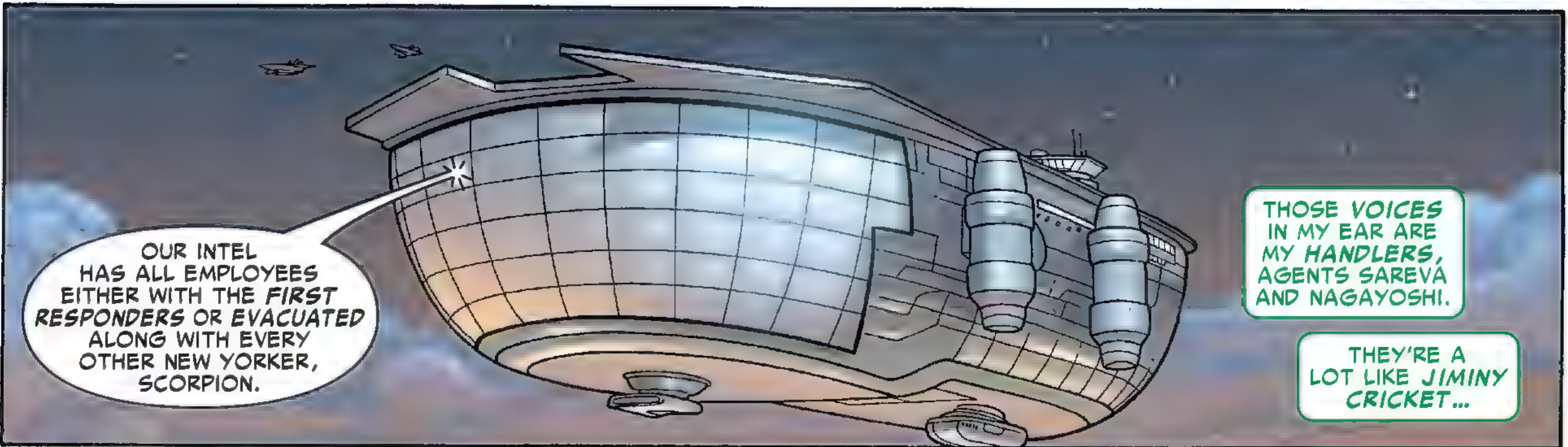


IF YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR GOOD DEED FOR THE DAY, CAN WE GET BACK TO SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY PERTAINS TO YOUR MISSION?

NAG, NAG, NAG...

MY TARGET DESTINATION IS JUST UP AHEAD. FROM OUT HERE, IT LOOKS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER RAVE-READY ABANDONED WAREHOUSE.

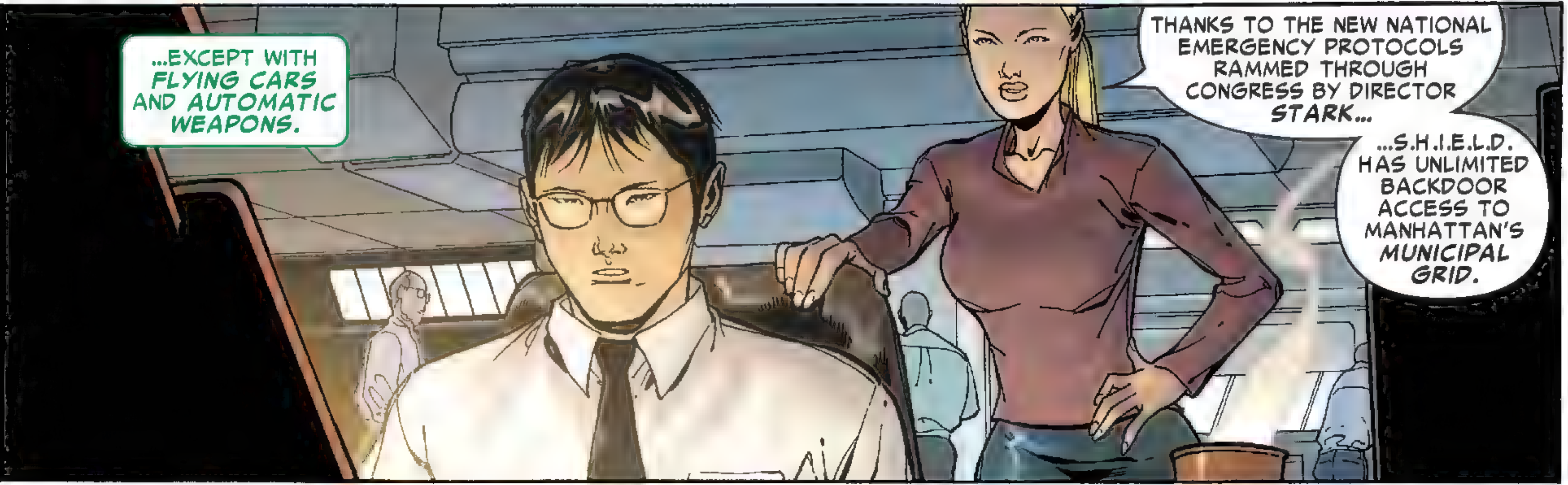
YOU SURE IT'S REALLY EMPTY?



OUR INTEL HAS ALL EMPLOYEES EITHER WITH THE FIRST RESPONDERS OR EVACUATED ALONG WITH EVERY OTHER NEW YORKER, SCORPION.

THOSE VOICES IN MY EAR ARE MY HANDLERS, AGENTS SAREVA AND NAGAYOSHI.

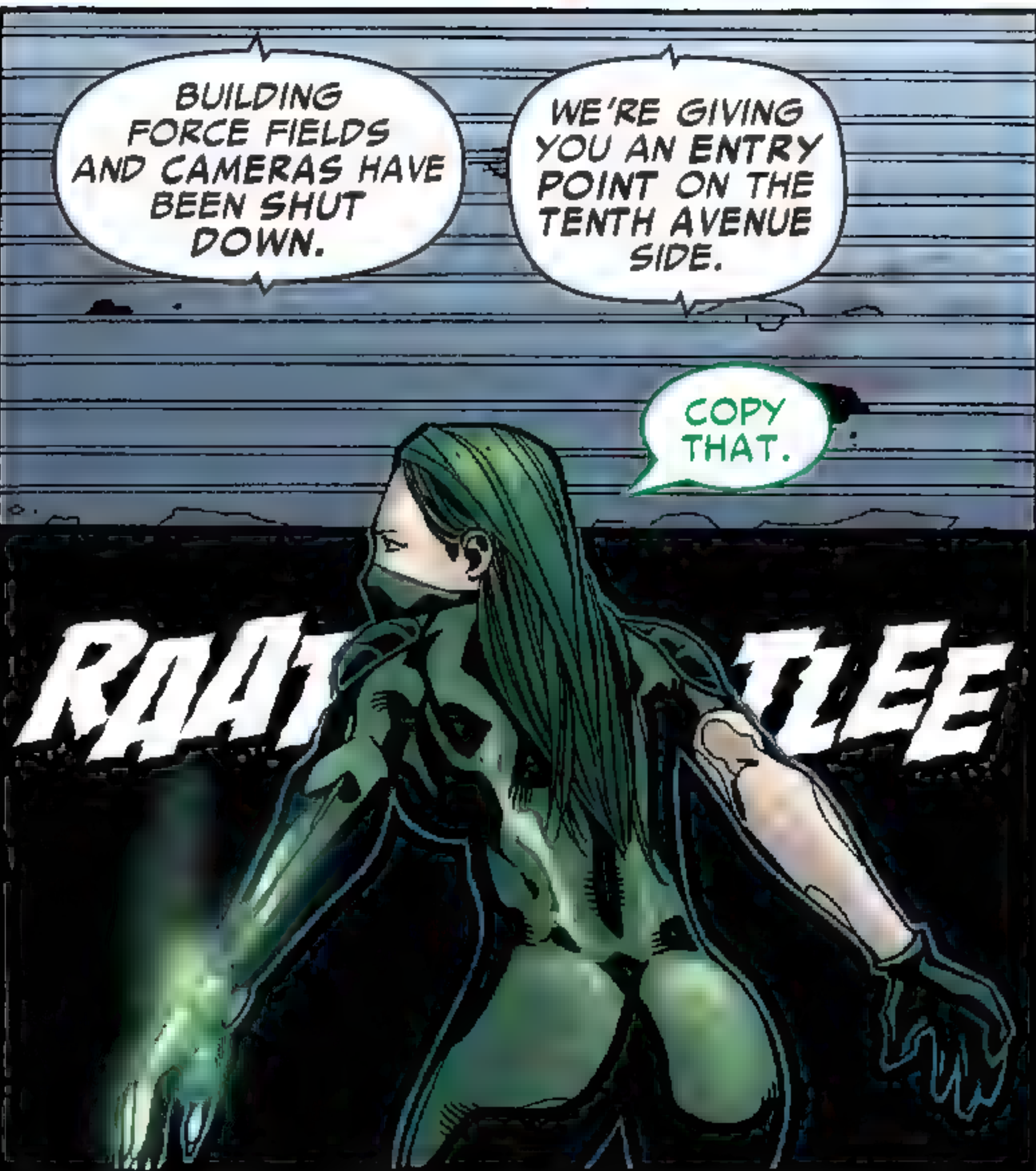
THEY'RE A LOT LIKE JIMINY CRICKET...



...EXCEPT WITH FLYING CARS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.

THANKS TO THE NEW NATIONAL EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS RAMMED THROUGH CONGRESS BY DIRECTOR STARK...

...S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS UNLIMITED BACKDOOR ACCESS TO MANHATTAN'S MUNICIPAL GRID.



BUILDING FORCE FIELDS AND CAMERAS HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN.

WE'RE GIVING YOU AN ENTRY POINT ON THE TENTH AVENUE SIDE.

COPY THAT.



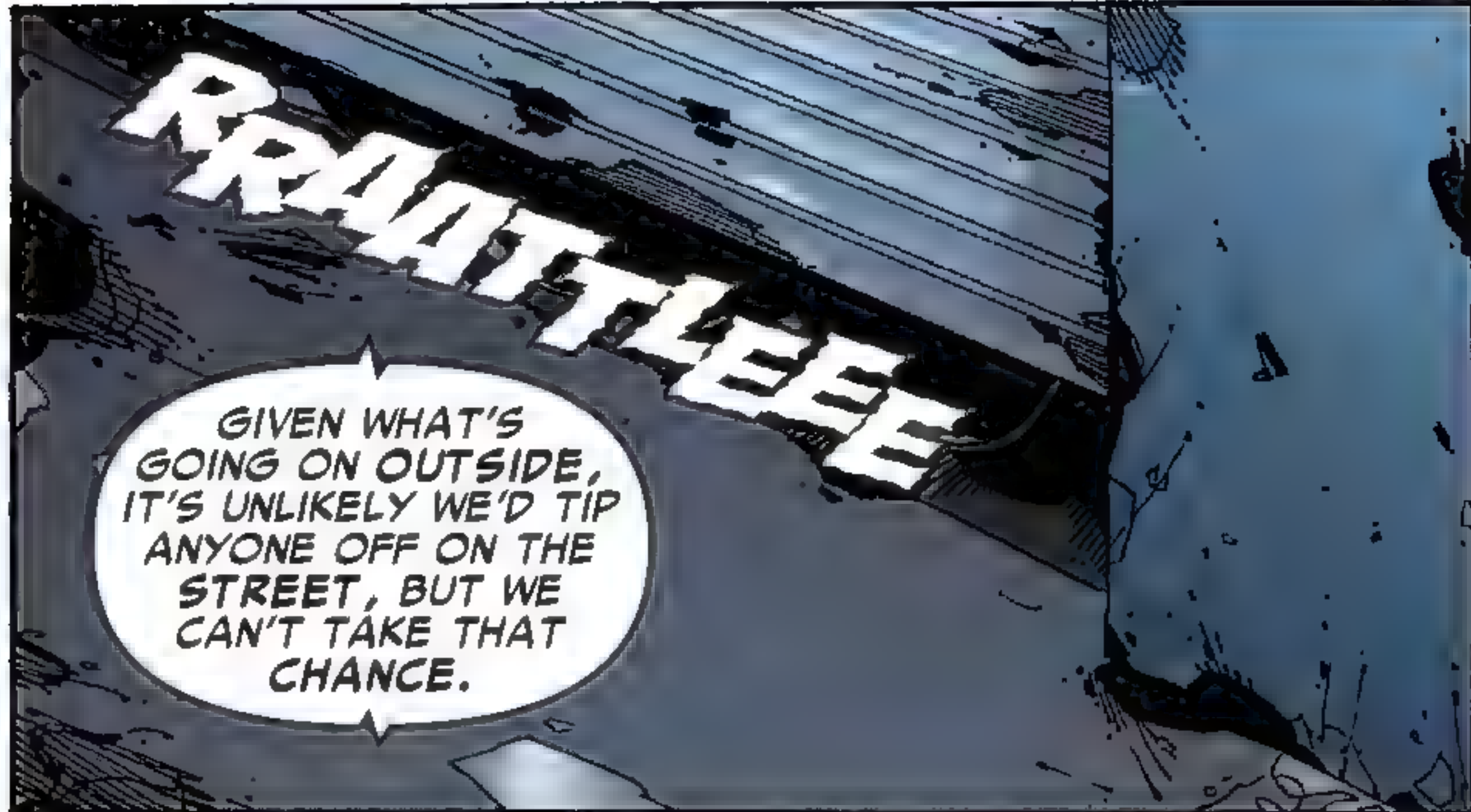
JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT FOLLOWED.

→PFFF!← AS IF.



DARK
IN HERE.

AND
WE'RE GOING
TO KEEP IT
THAT WAY.



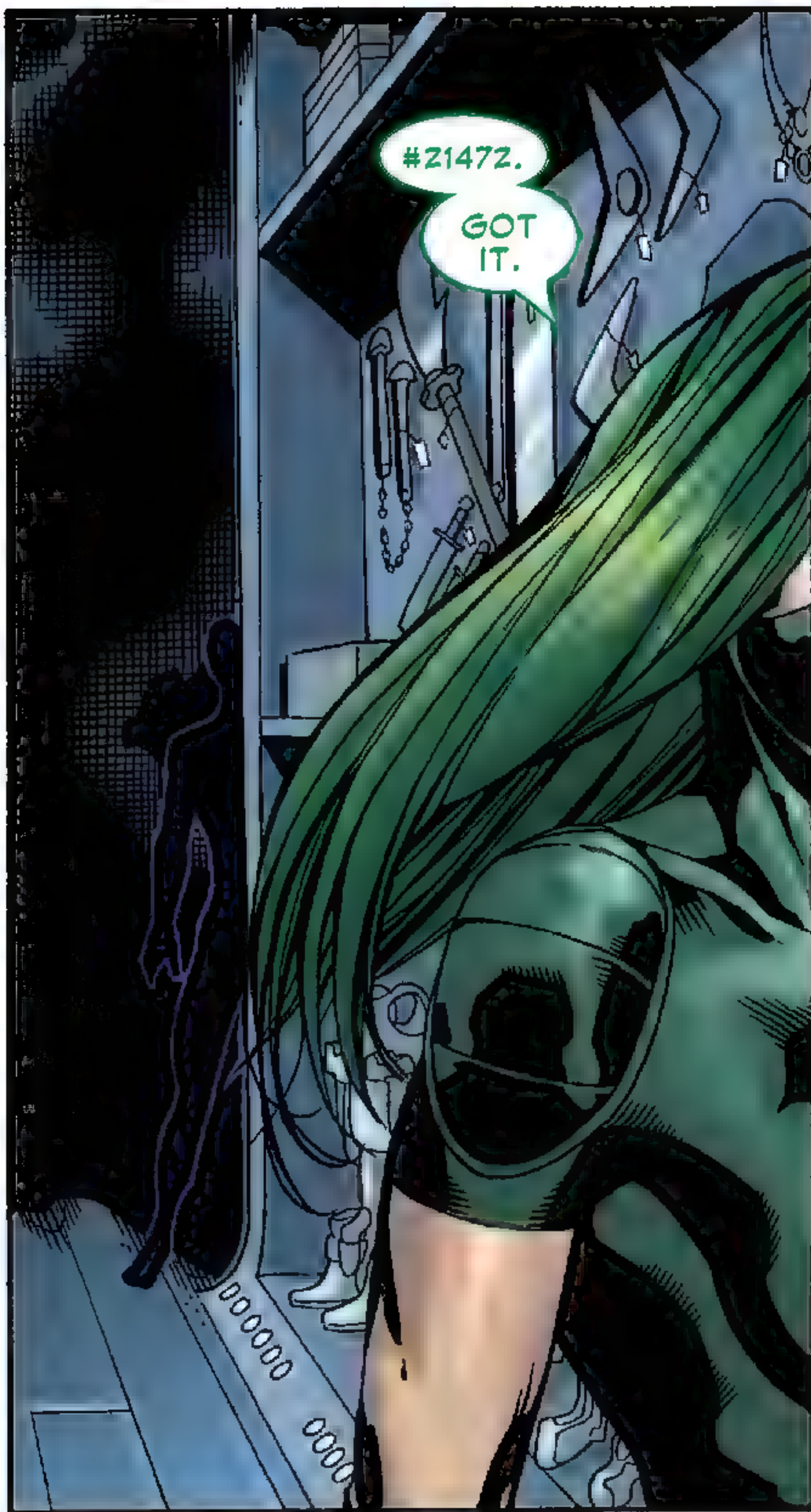
GIVEN WHAT'S
GOING ON OUTSIDE,
IT'S UNLIKELY WE'D TIP
ANYONE OFF ON THE
STREET, BUT WE
CAN'T TAKE THAT
CHANCE.



BREAKING
INTO N.Y.P.D.'S
MOST SECURE LONG-
TERM EVIDENCE
STORAGE FACILITY
IS A CLASS 1
FELONY.



THE ITEM
YOU'RE LOOKING
FOR IS #21472,
AISLE FOURTEEN,
SHELF FIVE,
SCORPION.



#21472.

GOT
IT.



LET'S SEE
HERE...AISLE
TWELVE...



...AISLE THIRTEEN...



YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE MERCS FROM THE BASE, RIGHT?

YOU FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY FROM THERE?



NOT "ONE OF." THE ONLY REAL MERC IN THAT BUNCH.

IF MISTY AND THOSE GUYS WANT TO RUN OFF AND PLAY SIGOURNEY WEAVER, THAT'S THEIR CHOICE.

BUT YOU CAPTIVATED ME THE MINUTE I LAID EYES ON YOU, HONEY BUNCH.



I THINK IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE THE COLOR OF MONEY.

BZZAP!!

=UNNNH!=-



OH-HO-HO-HO... PALADIN, OL' BOY, YOUR INSTINCTS HIT THE NAIL RIGHT ON THE HEAD YET AGAIN.

A KING'S RANSOM IN IMPOUNDED SUPER CRIMINAL WEAPONRY.



BUT
WHAT WERE
YOU AFTER,
SWEETNESS...?

THAT'S
FOR ME TO
KNOW AND
YOU TO NEVER
FIND OUT,
SPECS.

NICE RAY
GUN, BY
THE WAY.



GOT SOME
BAD NEWS
FOR YOU,
THOUGH...

CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK CLICK



...I HAVE THE
SAME ELECTROCYTE
MYOGENIC ORGAN AS AN
ELECTRIC EEL. LETS
ME METABOLIZE STUN
BLASTS ALMOST
INSTANTLY.

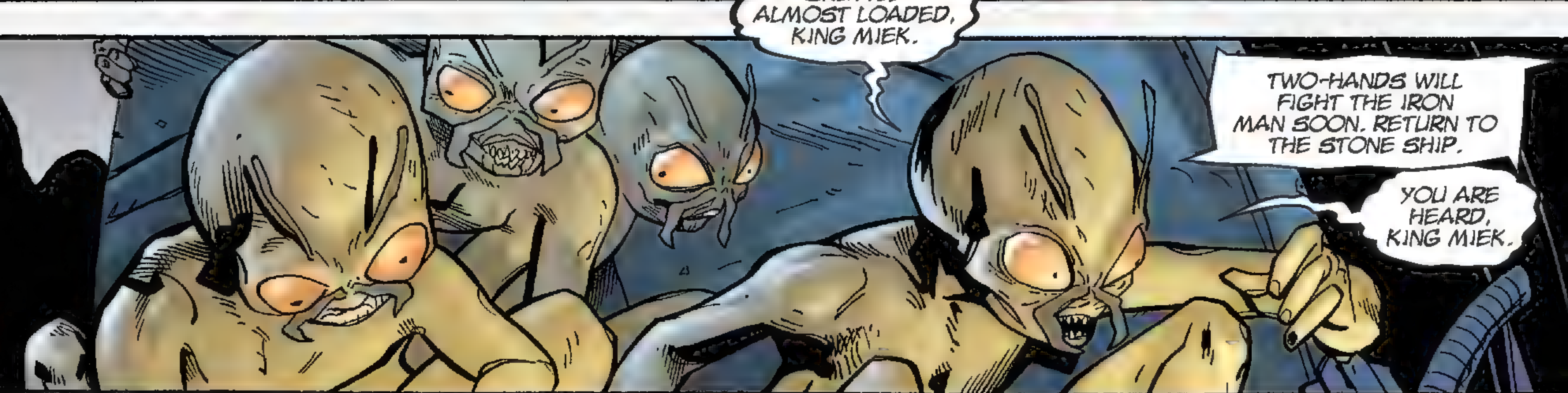
MY
TURN.

TO BE CONTINUED...





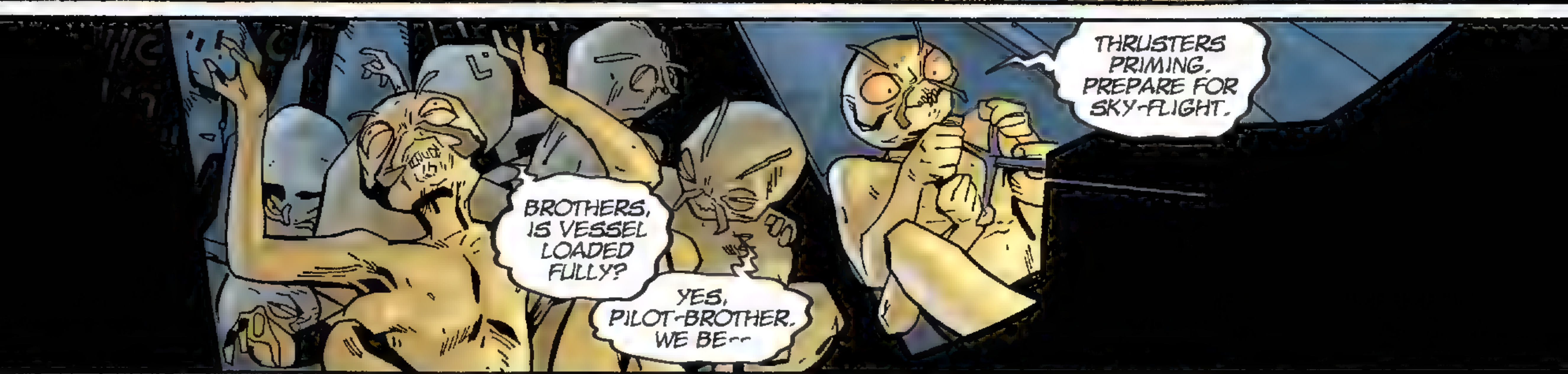
STATUS?



SHUTTLE ALMOST LOADED, KING MIEK.

TWO-HANDS WILL FIGHT THE IRON MAN SOON. RETURN TO THE STONE SHIP.

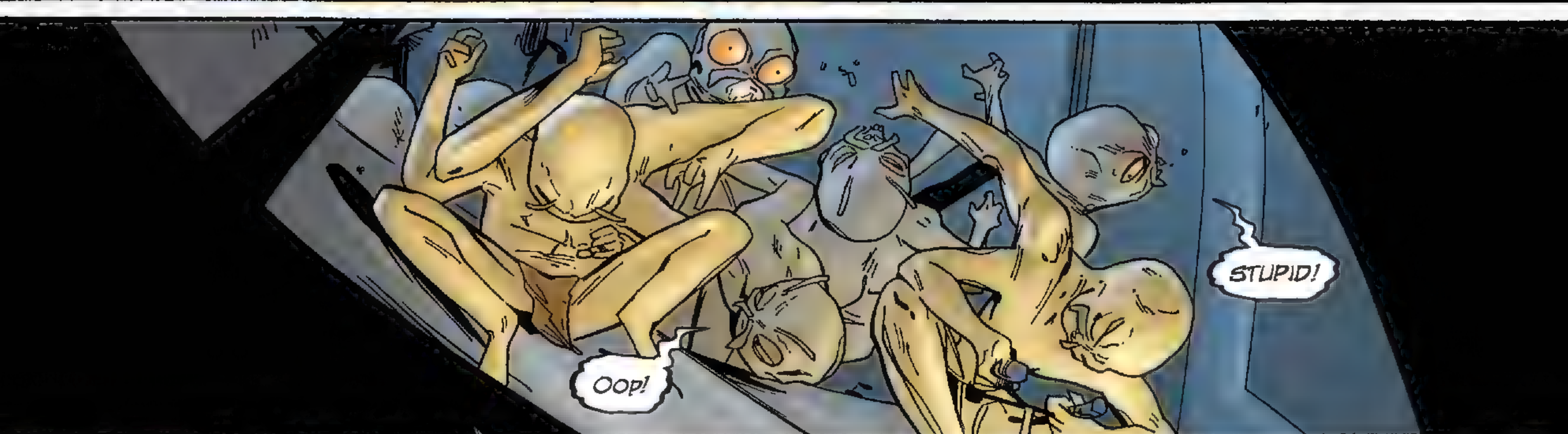
YOU ARE HEARD, KING MIEK.



BROTHERS, IS VESSEL LOADED FULLY?

YES, PILOT-BROTHER. WE BE--

THRUSTERS PRIMING. PREPARE FOR SKY-FLIGHT.

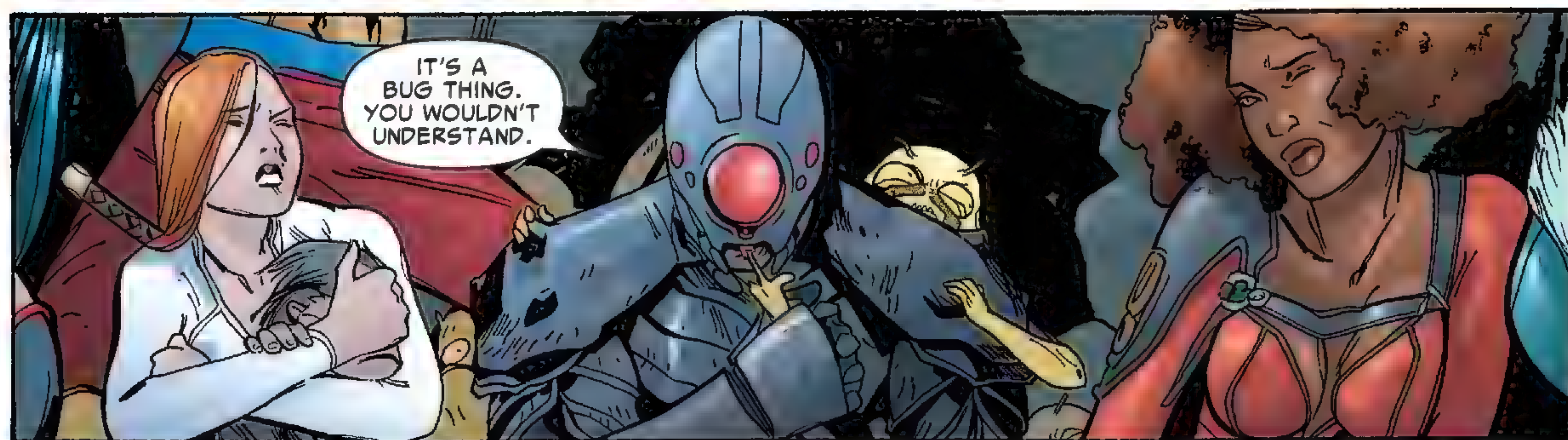
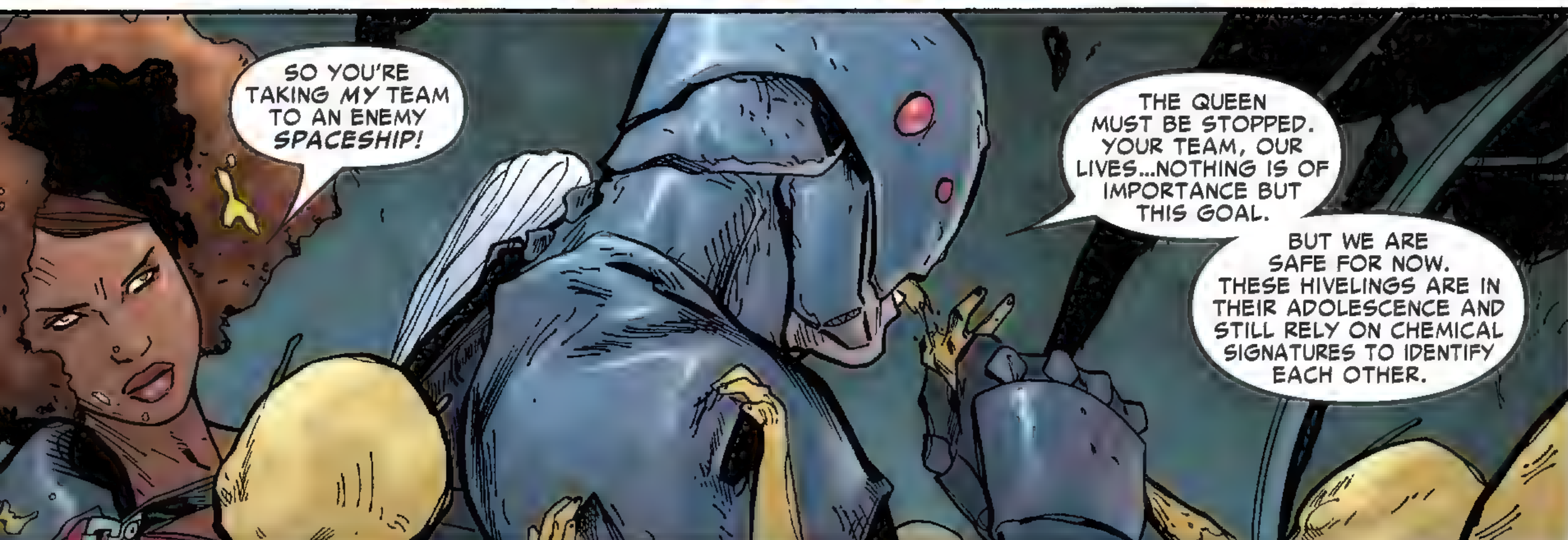


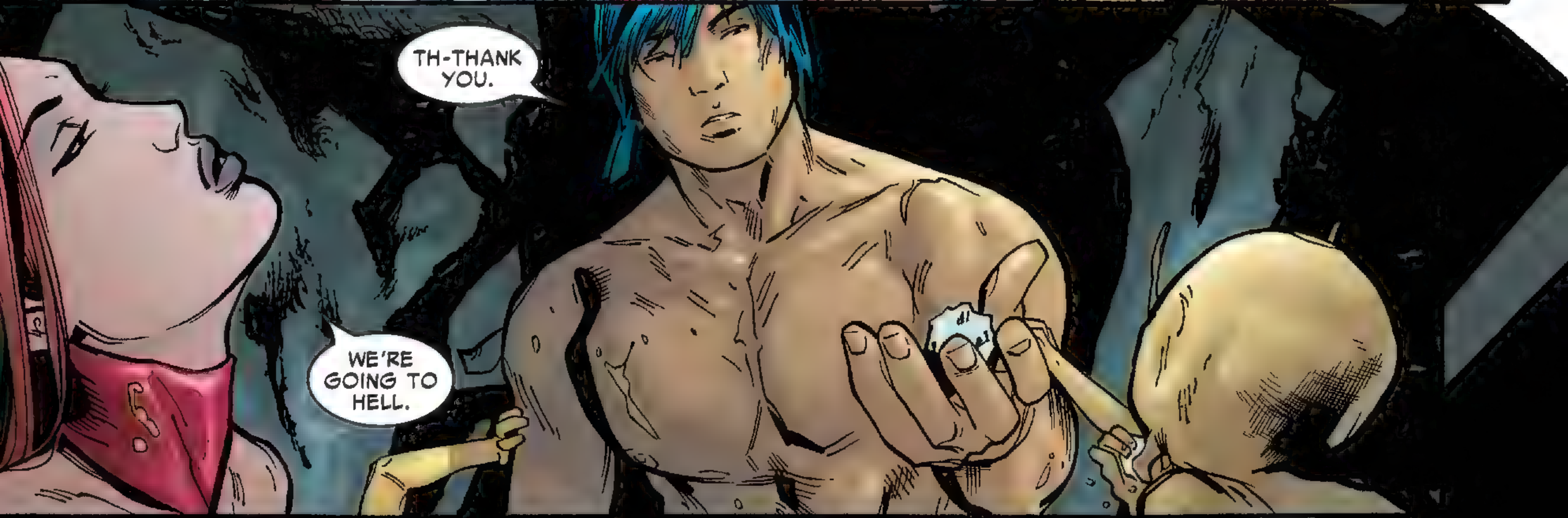
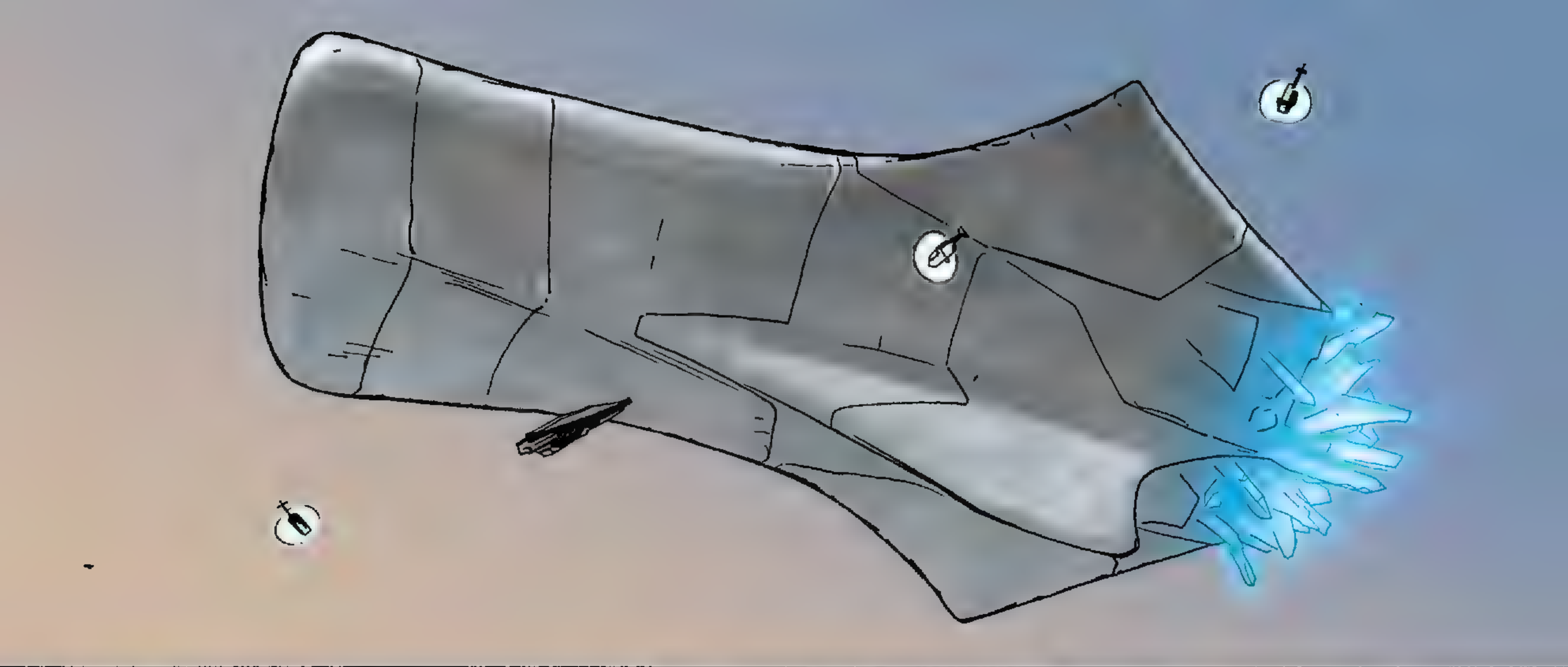
OOP!

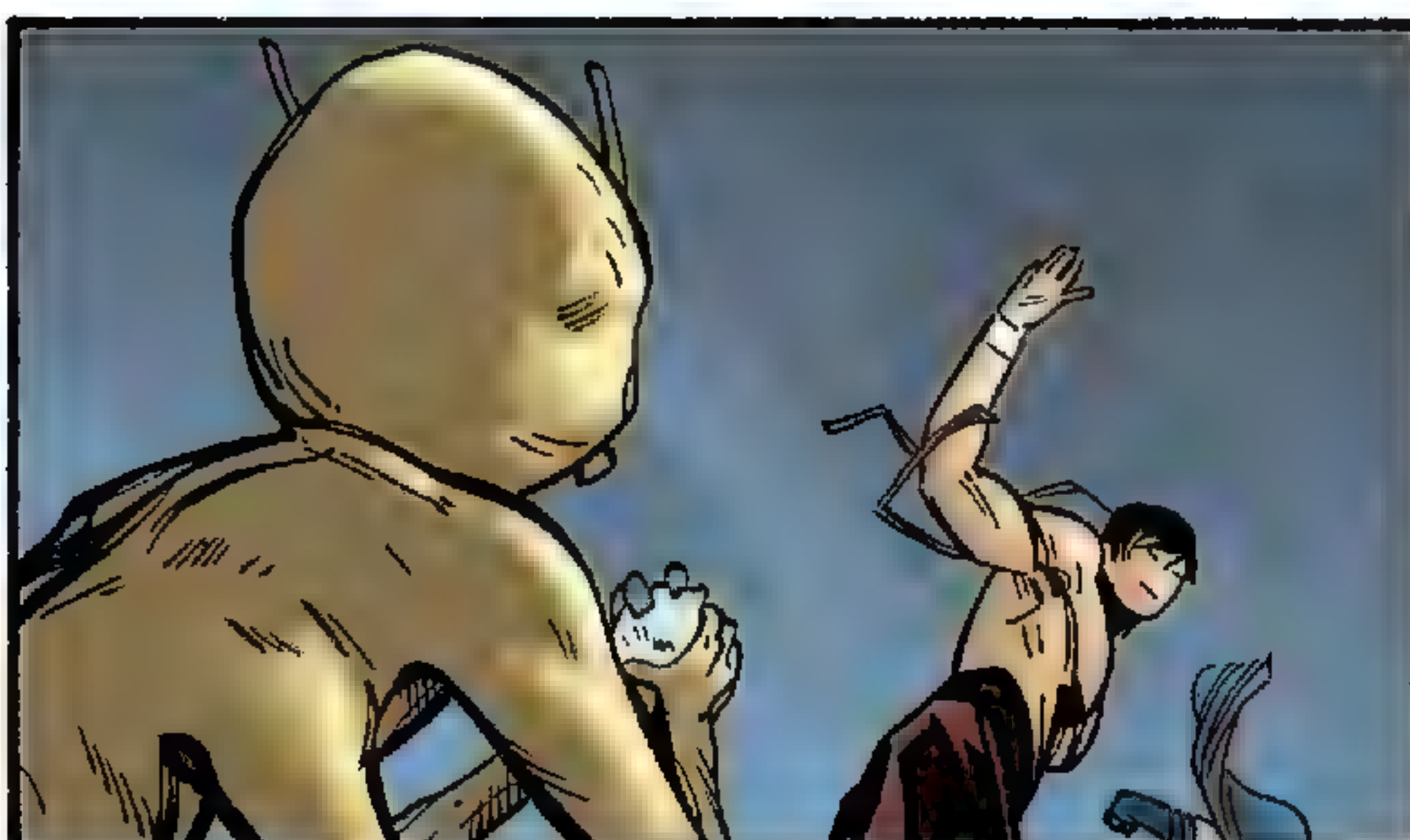
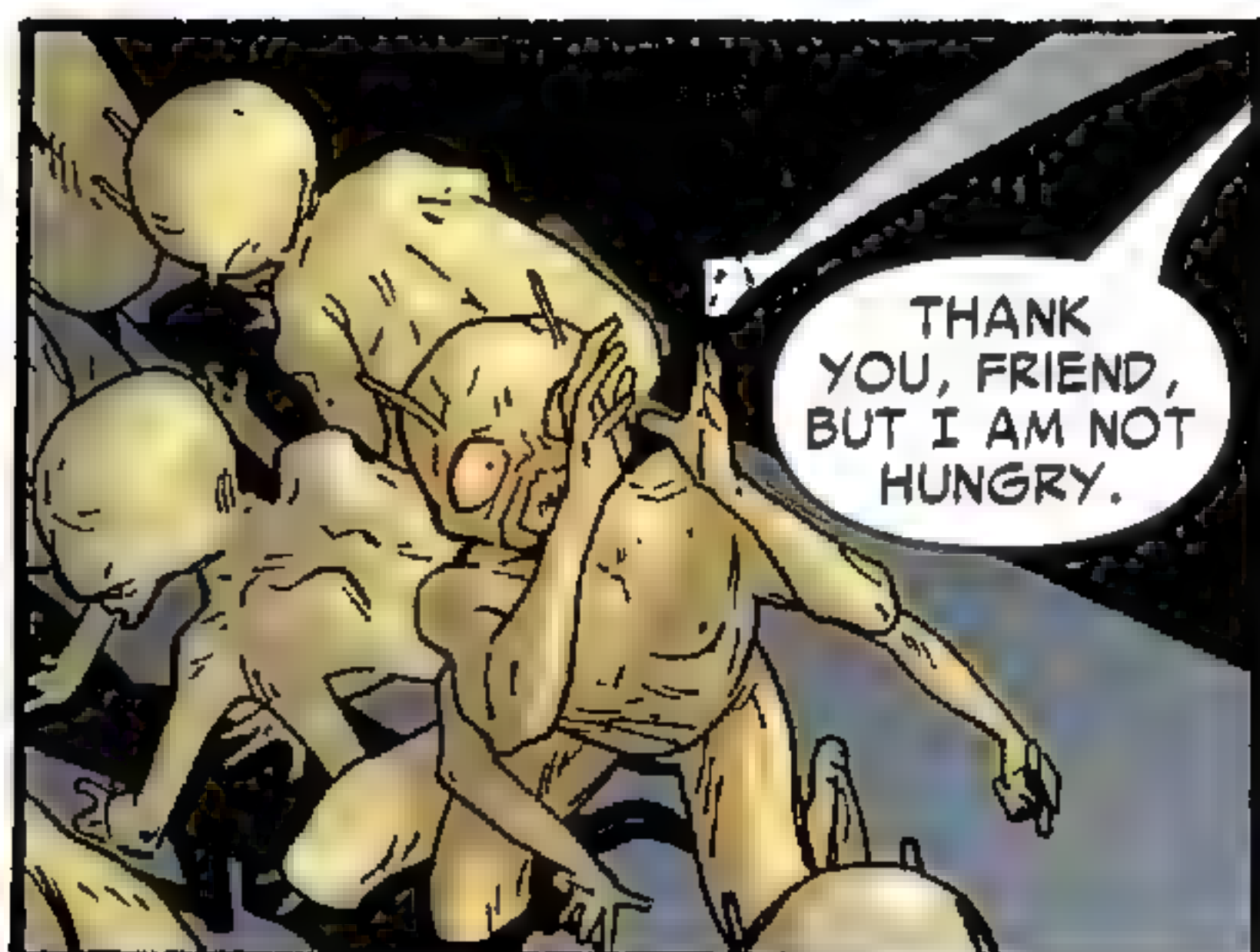
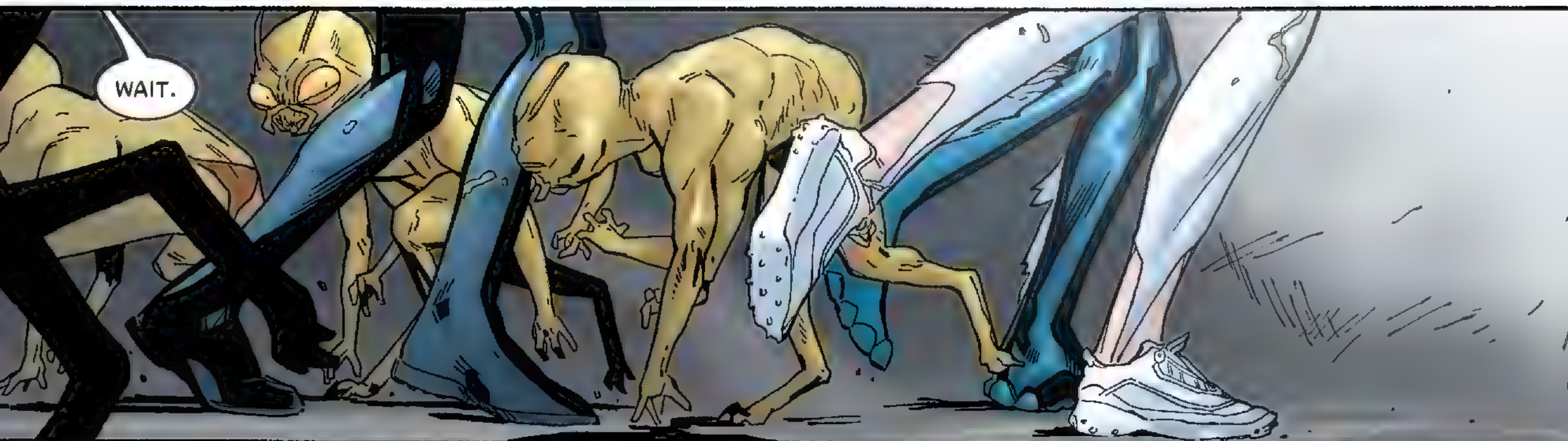
STUPID!

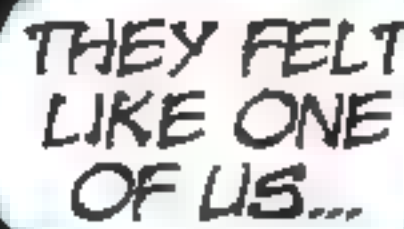
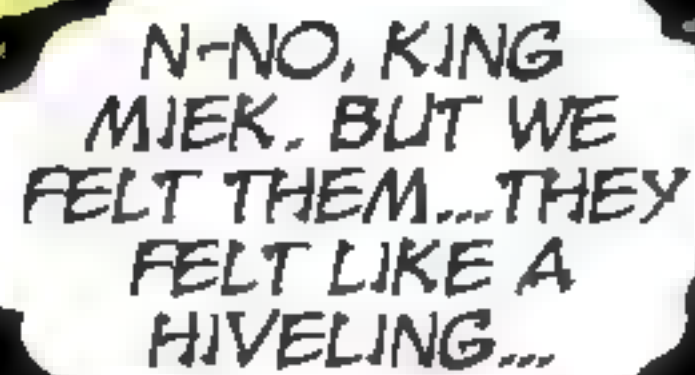
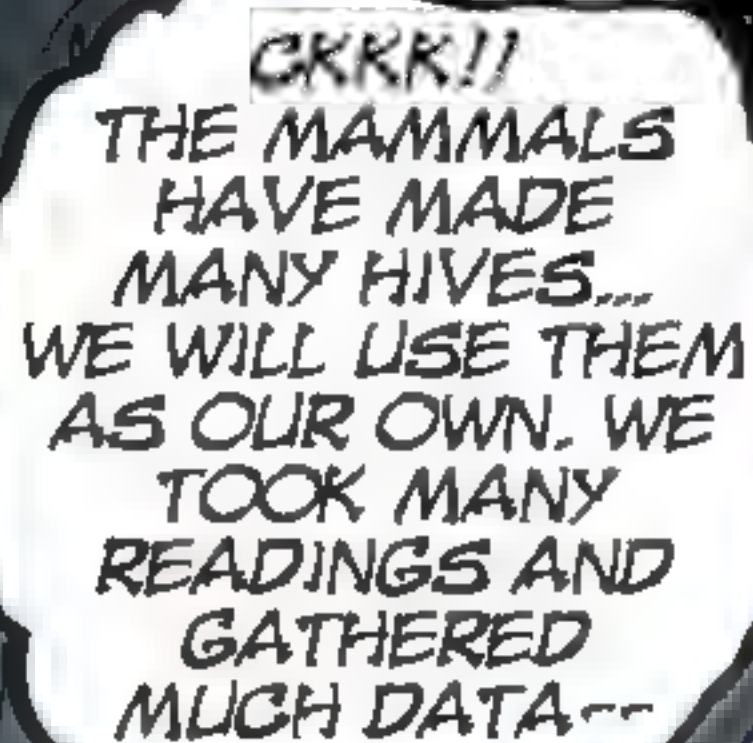


KASH!











CKK
RR
FFF!!

OH, MY
GOD...WHAT
IS THAT?

TH-THEIR
KING HAS
ARRIVED.

THEIR
"KING," LIKE
ANOTHER BUG? CAN
YOU UNDERSTAND
HIM?

Y-YESSSS...

MURDER!!

MIK!

WHAT IS
IT, MIK?

INTRUDERS
HAVE SLAUGHTERED
ONE OF MY KIN, KORG!
THEY TRY TO HIDE
IN HIS BLOOD!

WE
WILL FIND
THEM.

MIK WILL
NOT REST
UNTIL THEY ARE
DESTROYED!

FOR THEM,
THERE WILL BE
NO ESCAPE.



WELL?
ARE WE
OKAY?

Th-THEY
DON'T KNOW
A THING. WE'RE
FINE.



WEEEEAAAAH!
WEEEEAAAAH!

#@%!

THAT
SURE DOES
SOUND LIKE
AN ALARM!



HUMBUG,
WHAT'S
GOING ON?!
HUMBUG!?



@###!

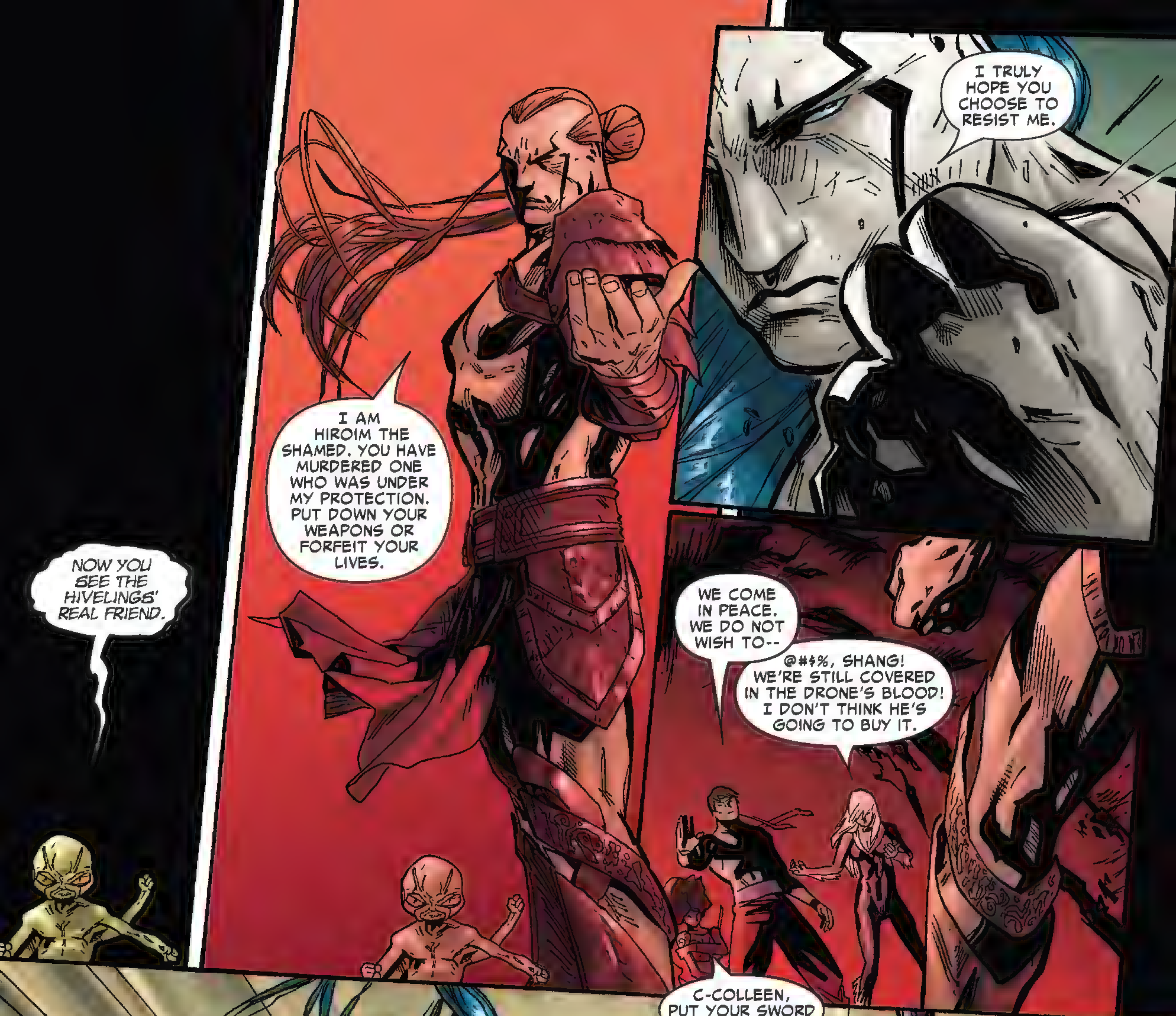
MISTY!
WE'VE GOT
COMPANY!



YOU CALL
ME FRIEND-
CKKKK!



SHARE
PROTEIN
AMONG US?!



I AM HIROIM THE SHAMED. YOU HAVE MURDERED ONE WHO WAS UNDER MY PROTECTION. PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS OR FORFEIT YOUR LIVES.

NOW YOU SEE THE HIVELINGS' REAL FRIEND.

I TRULY HOPE YOU CHOOSE TO RESIST ME.

WE COME IN PEACE. WE DO NOT WISH TO--

@##%, SHANG! WE'RE STILL COVERED IN THE DRONE'S BLOOD! I DON'T THINK HE'S GOING TO BUY IT.

C-COLLEEN, PUT YOUR SWORD DOWN...



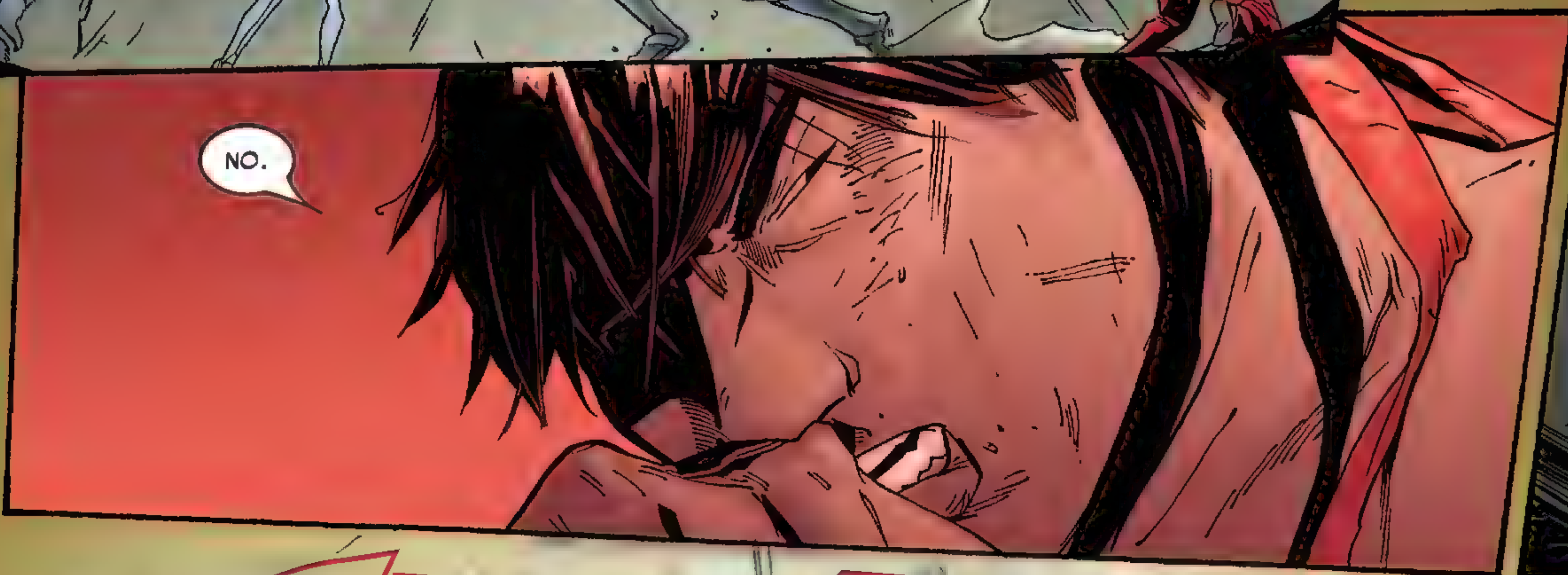
HA!

GOD...

HURK!



WAIT--



NO.



OH, MY GOD...
SHANG. ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?!

RUN.

BUT--

RUN!!



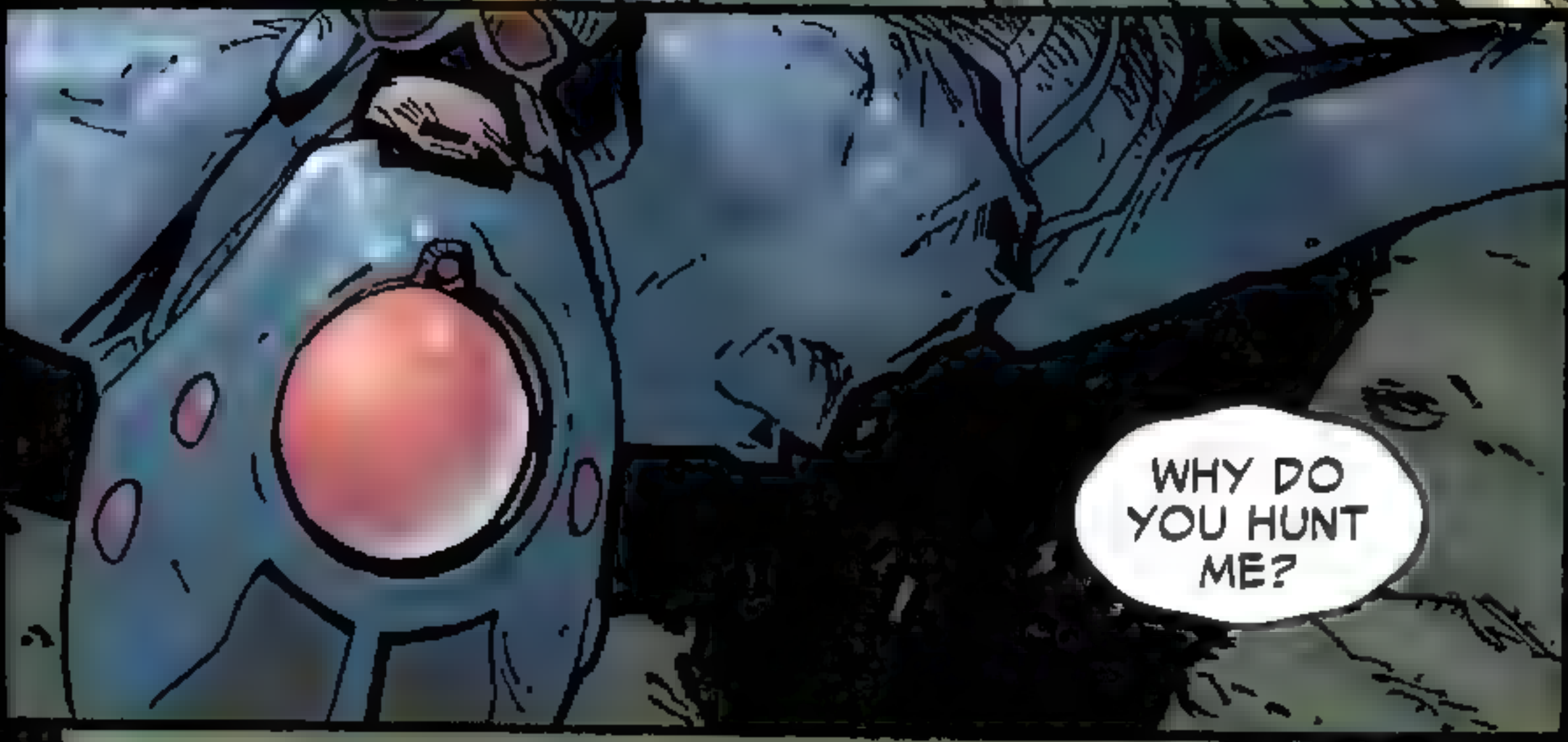
D-DID YOU
SEE THE LOOK
ON HIS FACE?
I DON'T KNOW
IF HE WANTS
TO BE...





CKKK! THEY
HAVE BEEN
FOUND!

FOLLOW
ELLOE! WE
WILL HAVE OUR
REVENGE!



WHY DO
YOU HUNT
ME?



BROOD.

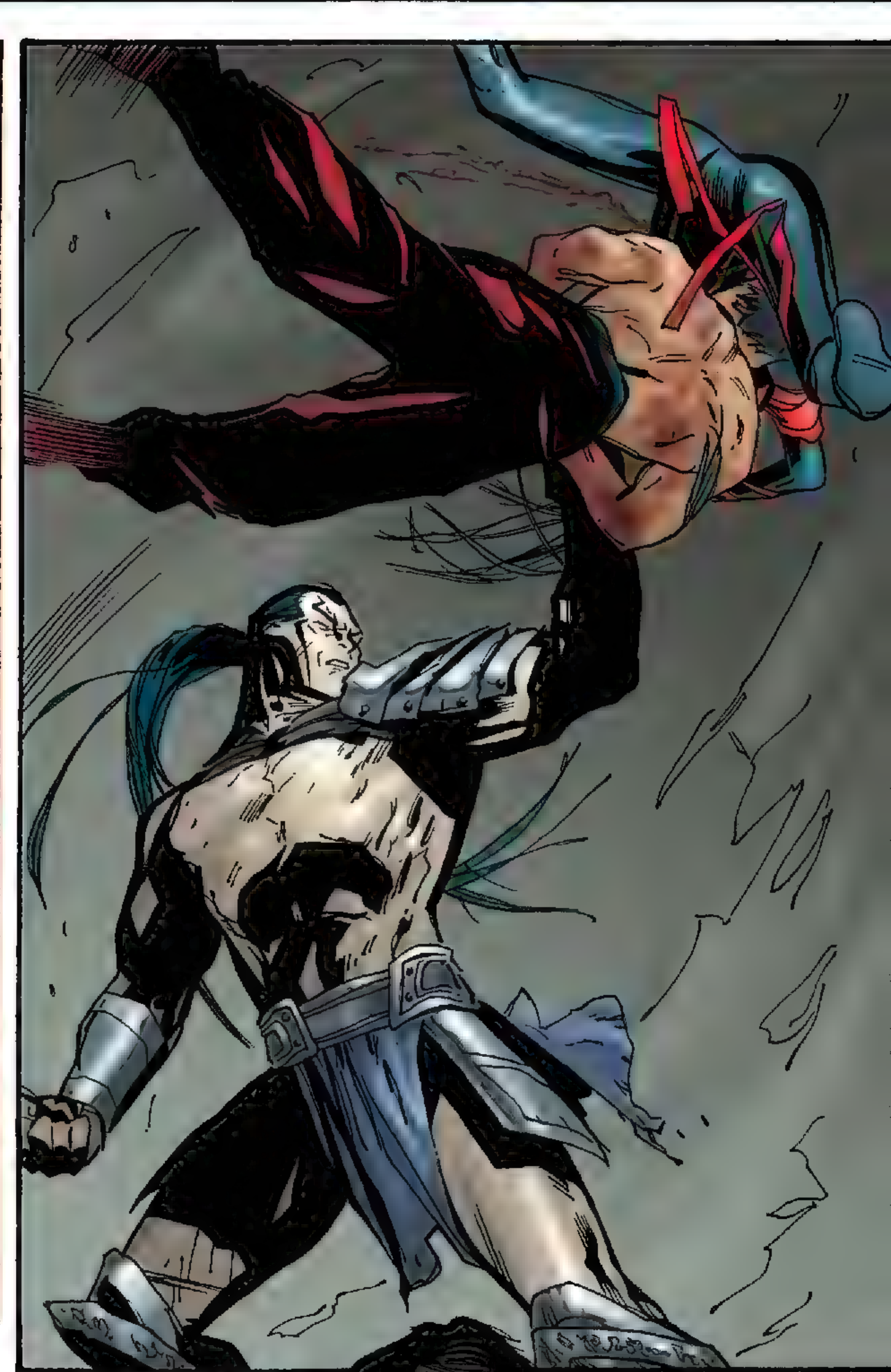
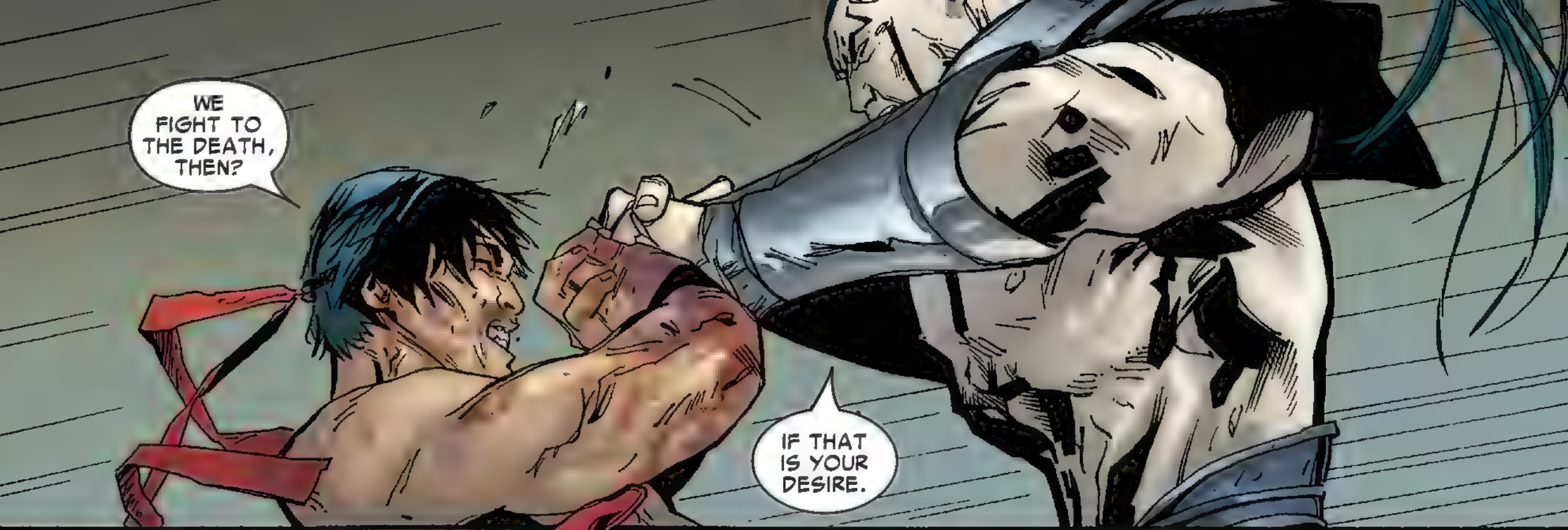
YES...IS
MY VOICE NOT
PLEASING TO
YOU?



TH-THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER...I HAVE
COME WITH
PURPOSE.



Y-YOU
MUST BE
STOPPED...
AT ALL
COSTS.



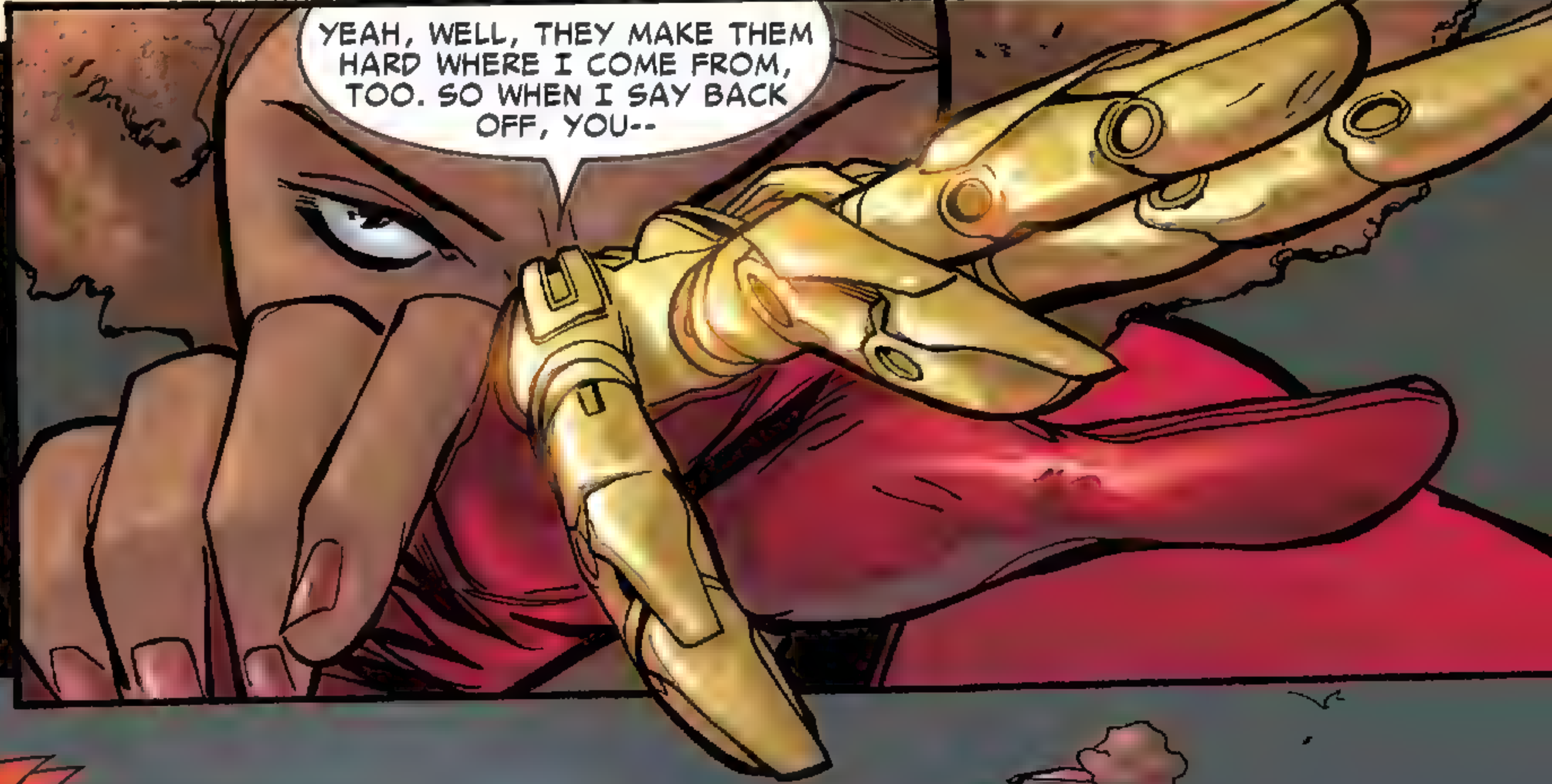


BACK OFF, ROCK MAN.

CRASH!



I AM KORG. I WAS HARDENED IN THE FIRES OF THE MAW.



YEAH, WELL, THEY MAKE THEM HARD WHERE I COME FROM, TOO. SO WHEN I SAY BACK OFF, YOU--



BAM!!!!

ZZAP!

ZZAP!

AAAAAAAAA!!



WHAT DO WE DO WITH THEM?

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO KILL THESE HUMANS.

BUT THEY SLAUGHTERED A HIVELING IN COLD BLOOD.



LET'S TAKE IT TO MIEK.



SHOW YOURSELF, MAN-BUG. I'VE WAITED FOR YOU.



Y-YOU TRESPASS ON OUR HIVE.

DON'T ECHO THE FOOLISH SENTIMENTS OF YOUR EARTH-HIVE, MAN-BUG. I'VE CHEMMED YOU. I FEEL THE DESIRES STIRRING WITHIN YOU...



FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE, YOU FEEL AT HOME. YOU'VE BEEN USED BY THE MAMMALS, A JOKE TO YOUR TEAMMATES...NOW YOU PLAY THE PAWN FOR THE EARTH-INSECTS?

TH-THEY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE EARTH-HIVE...

THEY SEEK TO RETAIN THEIR POWER!

I...I MUST STOP YOU...

MUST YOU? THEN STRIKE, MAN-BUG! STRIKE WHILE MY BACK IS TURNED!



STRIKE!!



YES, MAN-BUG... I CAN SEE INTO YOUR HEART. I KNOW YOU DREAM OF A PLANET RULED BY INSECTS. A PLACE WHERE YOU WILL BE AT PEACE.

I...

FIGHT IT NO MORE.

KNEEL.



KNEEL
BEFORE YOUR
QUEEN.

TO BE
CONTINUED...

SO FAR:

WHILE WORLD WAR HULK RAGES OUTSIDE, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS SENT THEIR UNDERCOVER SUPER-AGENT SCORPION INTO THE NYPD'S LONG-TERM EVIDENCE STORAGE FACILITY TO RETRIEVE A MYSTERIOUS ITEM.

SCORPION DIDN'T REALIZE SHE WAS FOLLOWED INTO THE WAREHOUSE BY SOMETIMES HEROES FOR HIRE TEAMMATE PALADIN, HOWEVER, SMELLING A PAYDAY. HE THOUGHT HE HAD KNOCKED THE SPY UNCONSCIOUS, BUT...

ITEM #65967...THIS IS THE SIX-BARRELLED SHOTGUN OF SOME PERP NAMED "COCKROACH HAMILTON."

Uh...

...HE NAMED IT "JOSH."

MANIFEST SAYS JOSH IS LOADED WITH CONCUSSION GRENADES, SO IT'S NON-LETHAL--

GOOD.

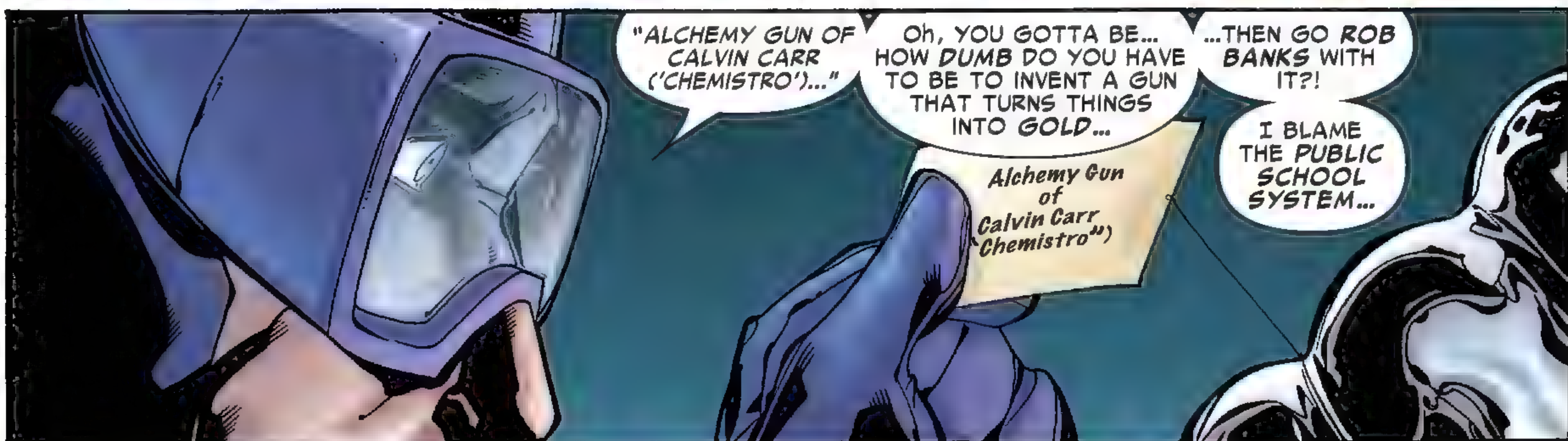
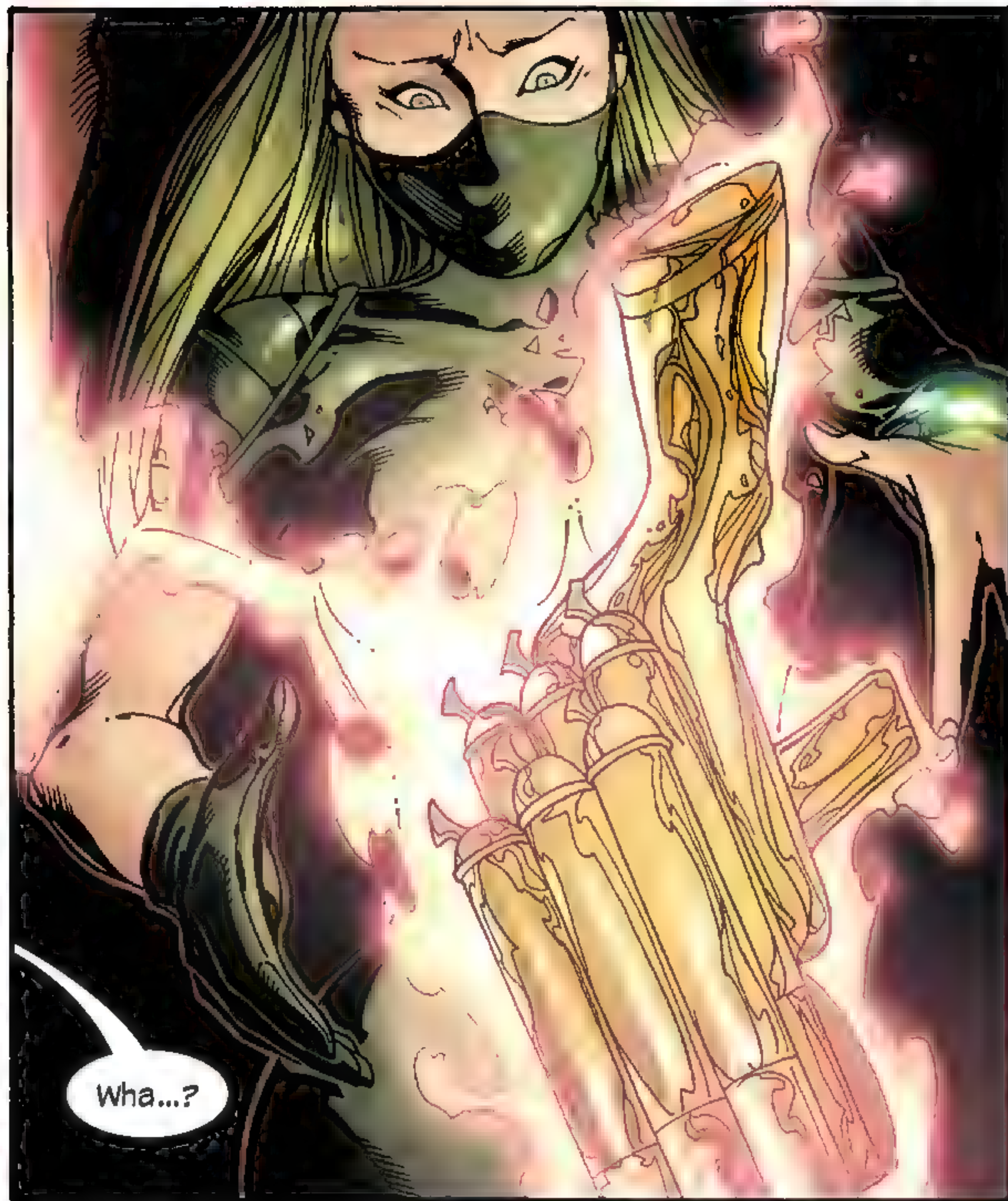
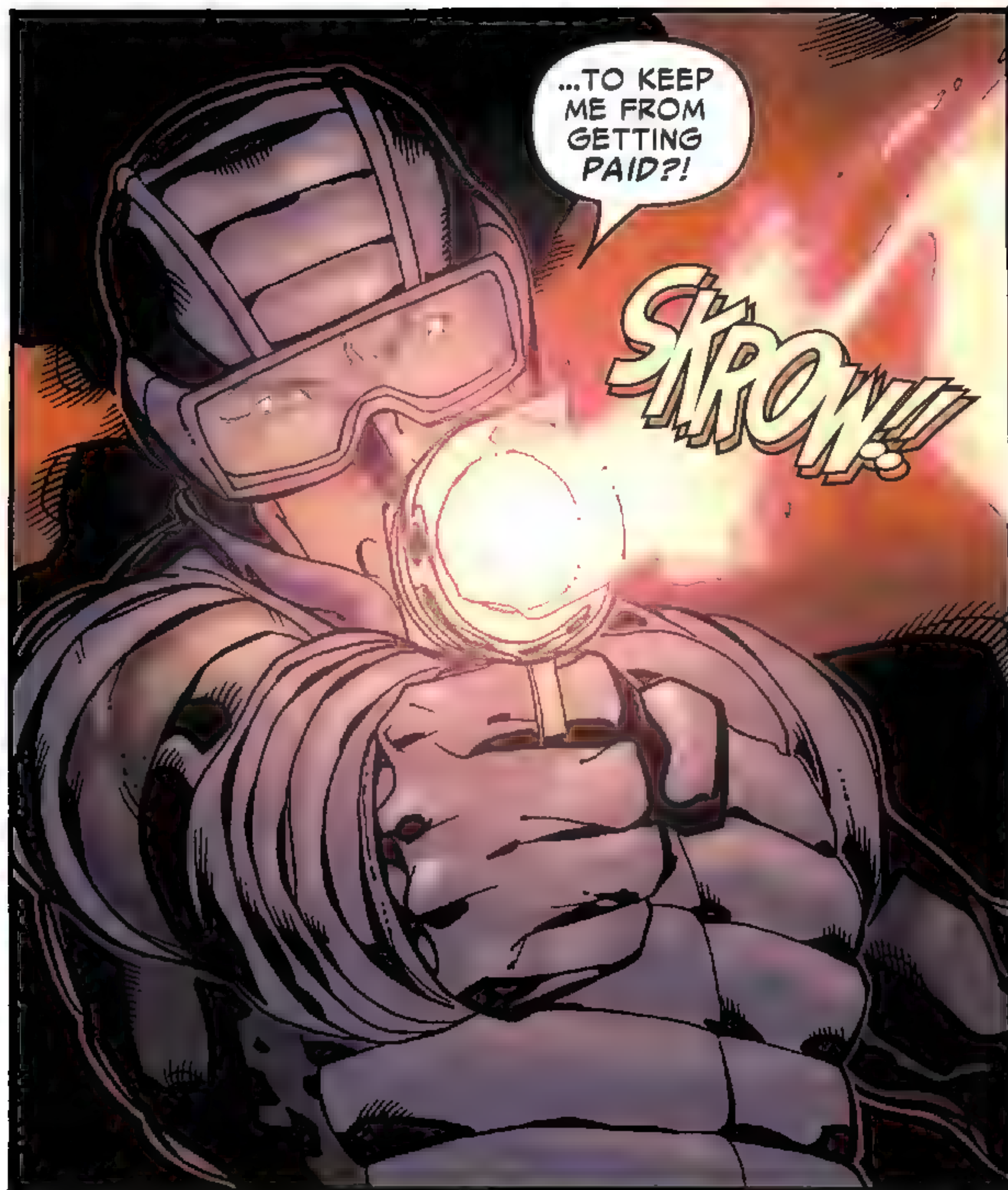
BOOM!
BOOM! BOOM!
BOOM! BOOM!
BOOM!

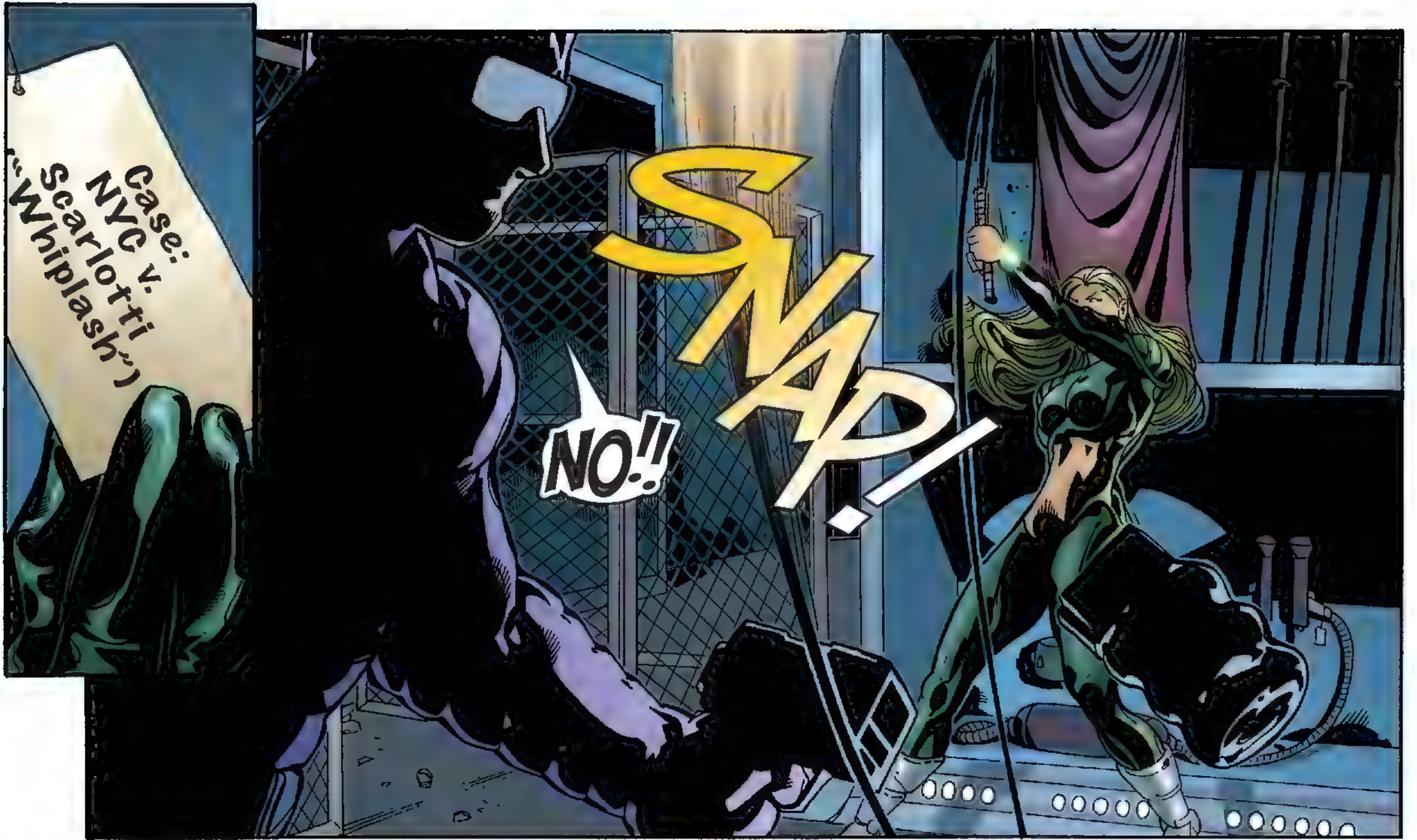
I HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO KICK THIS GUY'S @\$\$!

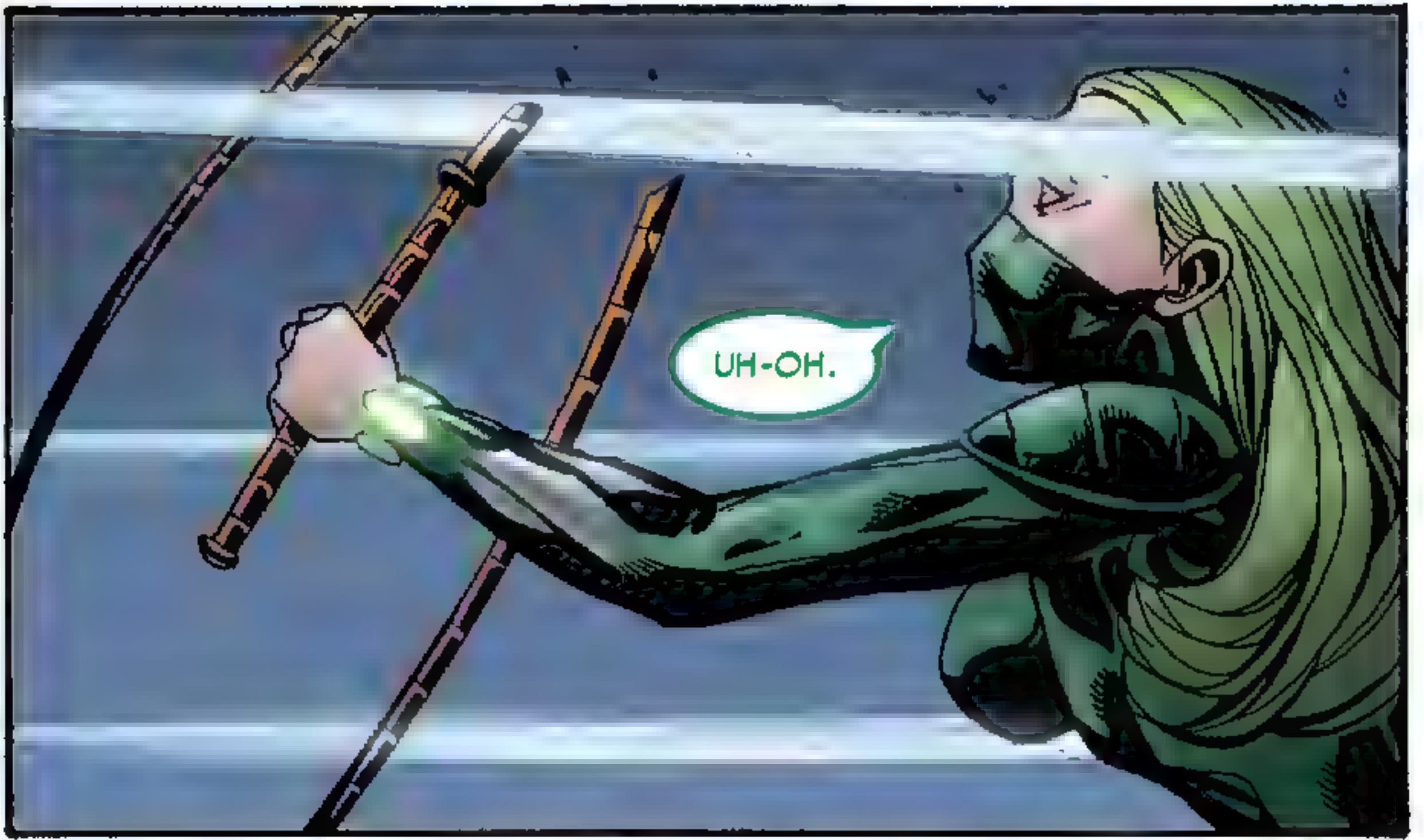
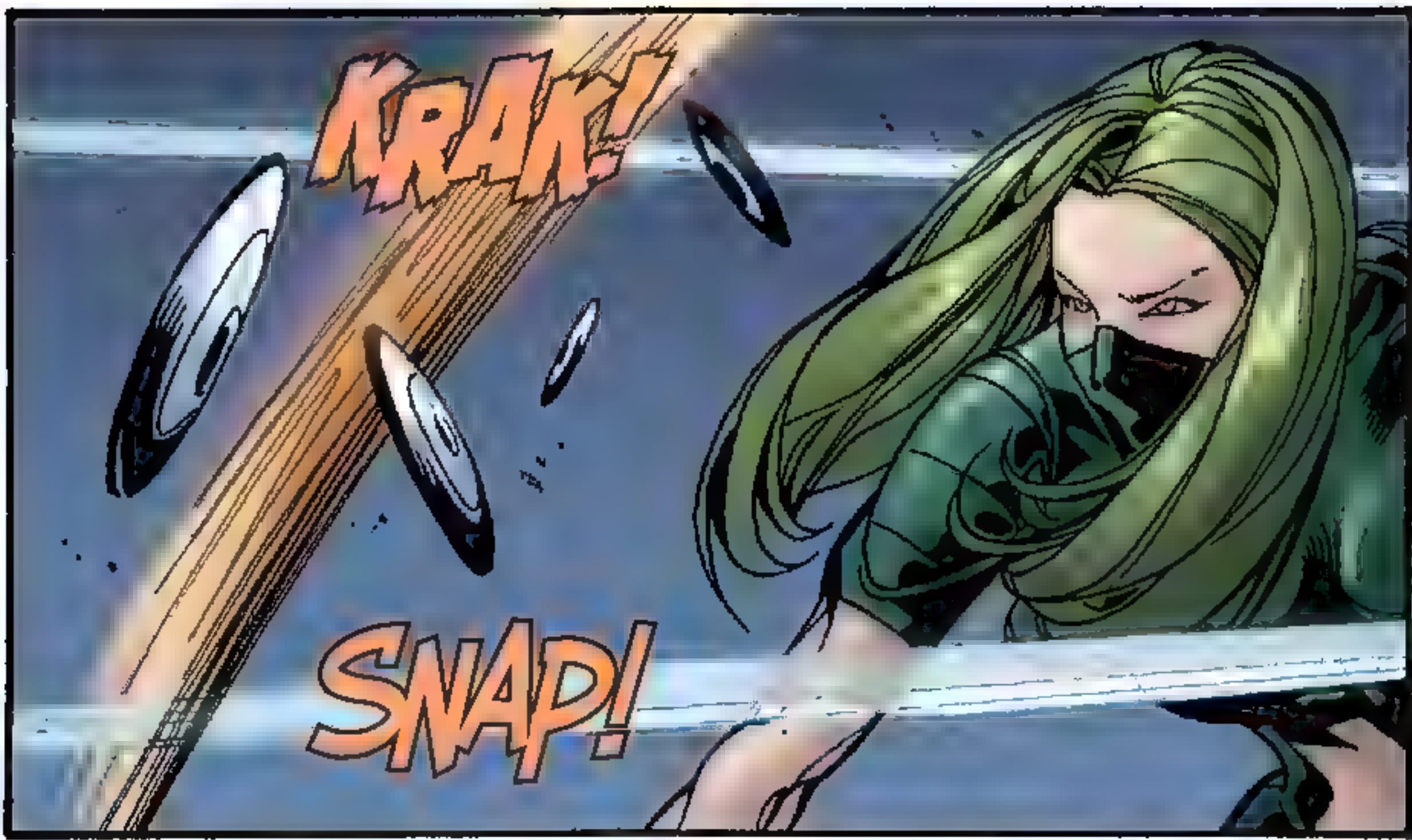
KRAASH!!

OooooF!!

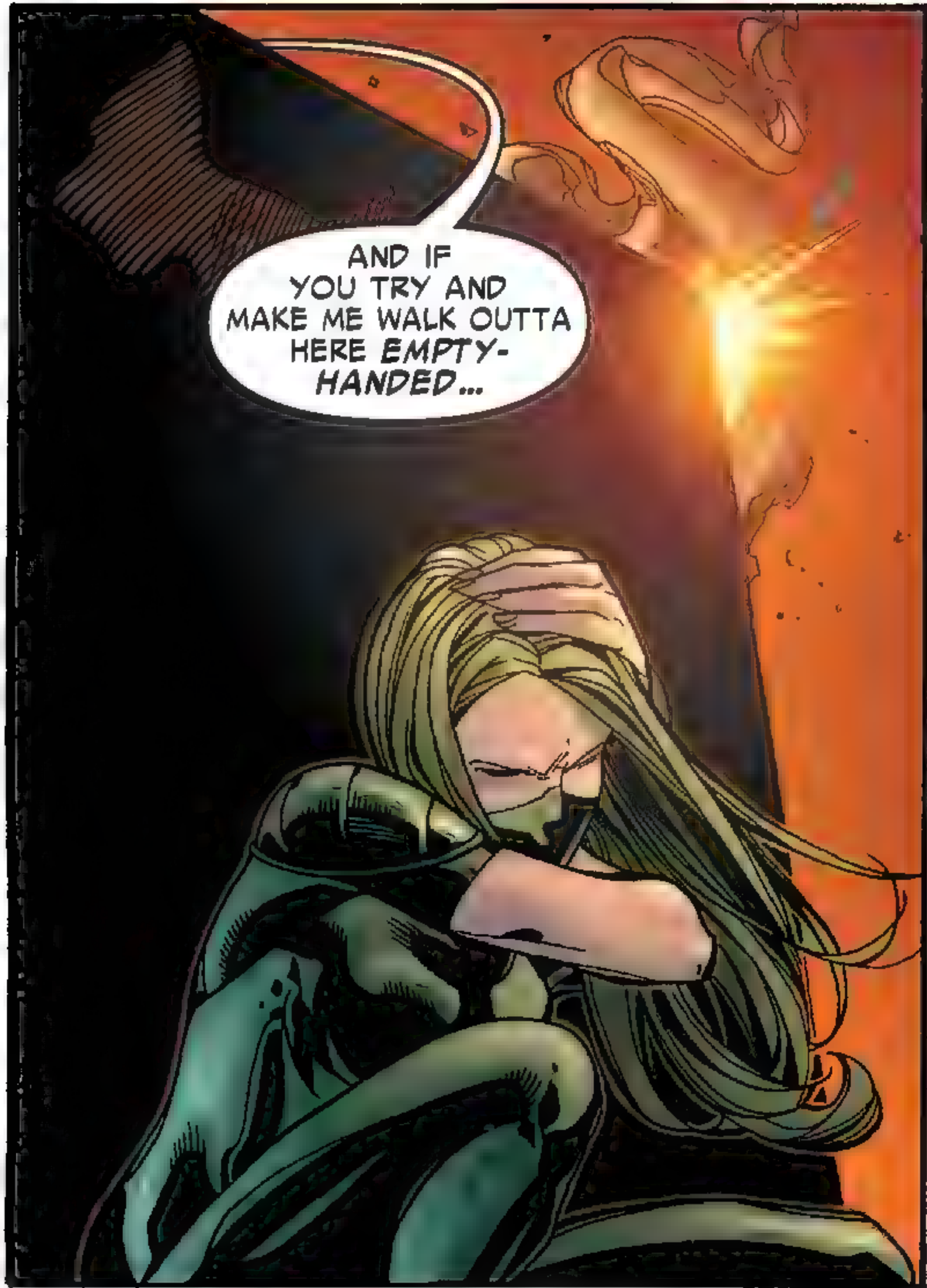
WHY IS IT EVERYBODY I MEET THESE DAYS HAS MADE IT THEIR MISSION IN LIFE...







Case:
NYC v. Horgan
("Melter")

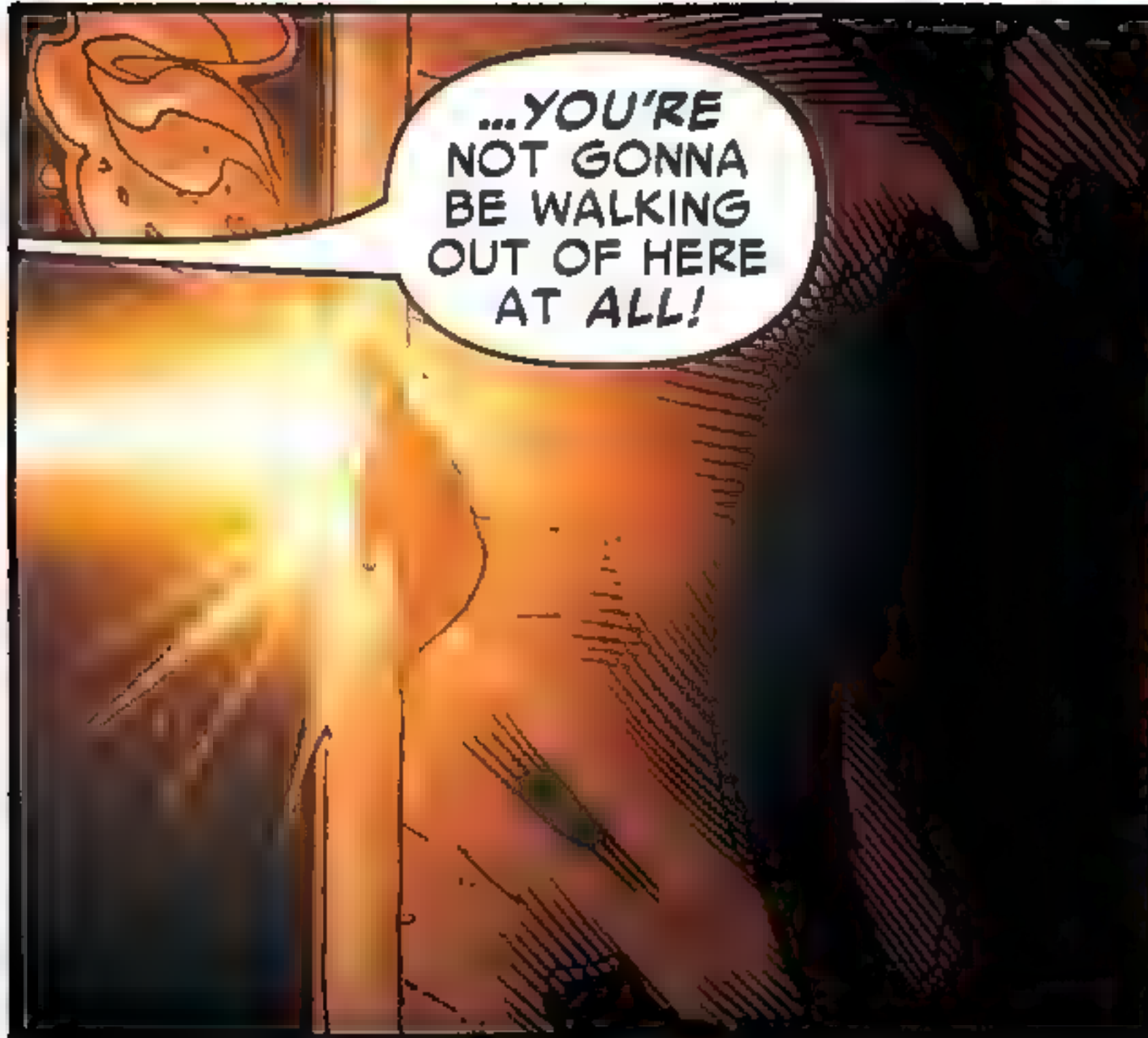


AND IF
YOU TRY AND
MAKE ME WALK OUTTA
HERE **EMPTY-
HANDED...**

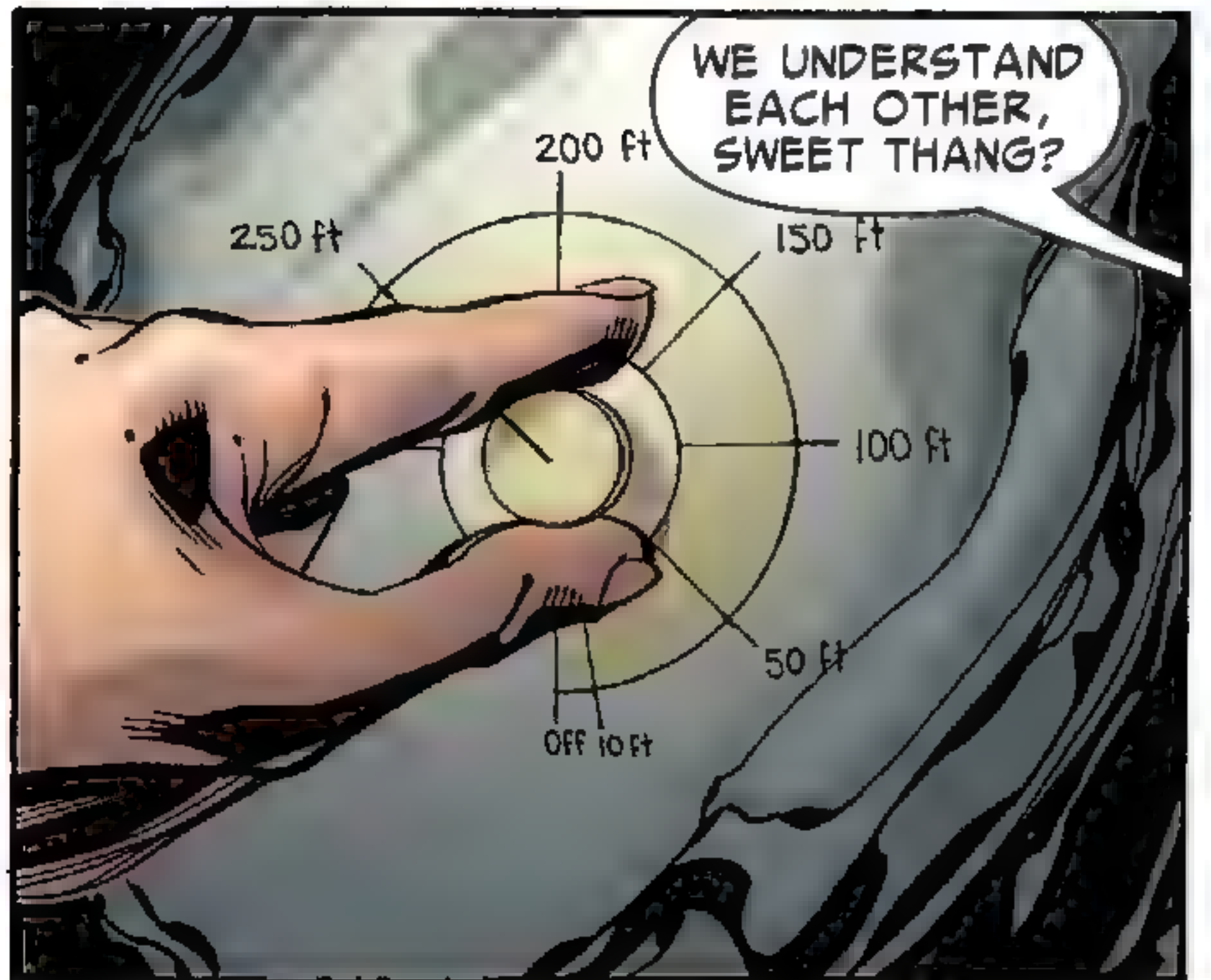


Hmmmm...

Case:
NYC v. Turk
("Loser")



...YOU'RE
NOT GONNA
BE WALKING
OUT OF HERE
AT ALL!



WE UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER,
SWEET THANG?

200 ft
150 ft
100 ft
50 ft
OFF 10 ft
250 ft



SURE...



WHAMMM!!

...YOU'RE
A PANCAKE.
I'M NOT.

WHAT'S NOT TO
UNDERSTAND?



IT'S BEEN
REAL, SPECS.
LATER.

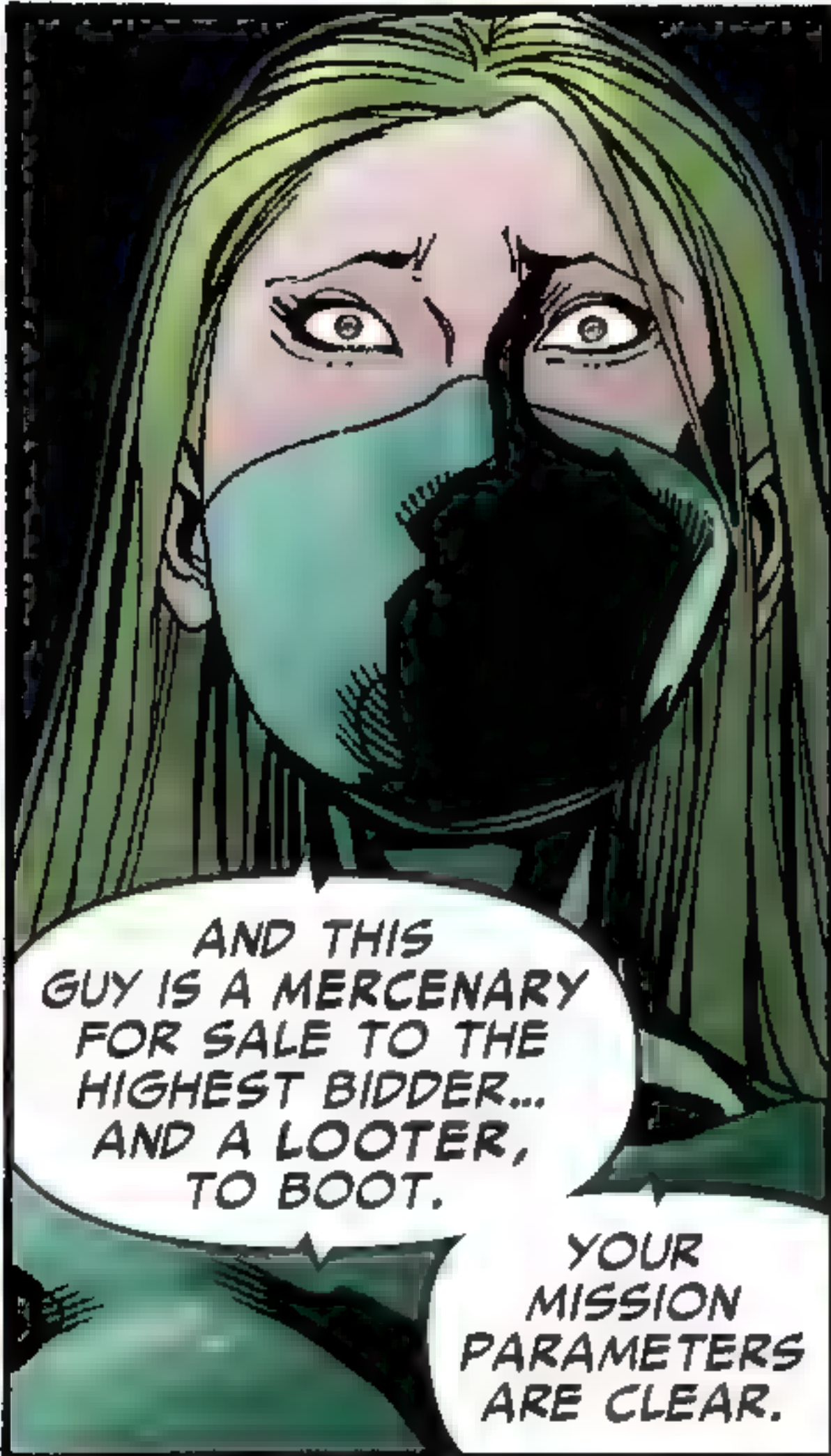
HOLD ON.
YOU'RE NOT
DONE YET,
SCORPION.



I TOLD
YOU. YOU
CAN'T LET HIM
ESCAPE.

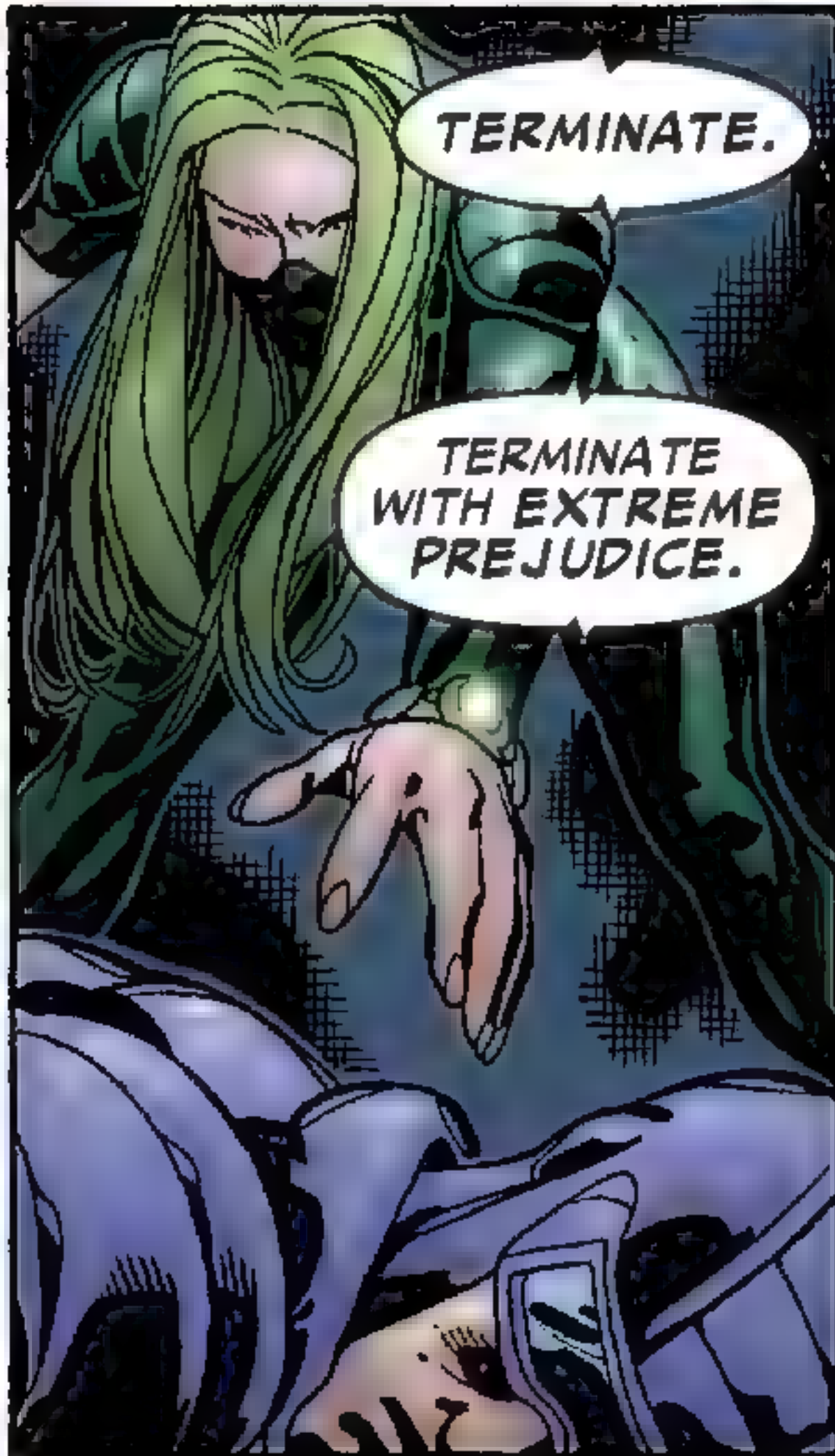
B-But--

NO ONE
CAN KNOW THIS
OPERATION
EXISTS.



AND THIS
GUY IS A MERCENARY
FOR SALE TO THE
HIGHEST BIDDER...
AND A LOOTER,
TO BOOT.

YOUR
MISSION
PARAMETERS
ARE CLEAR.



TERMINATE.

TERMINATE
WITH EXTREME
PREJUDICE.



**HEROES
FOR HIRE**
KILLER INSTINCTS PART TWO



'SUP,
TOOTS.

LOOK
WHAT I
LANDED
ON.

TO BE CONCLUDED!



THE HULK'S
STONE SHIP.

HAVE YOU
TOLD THE
HULK OF OUR
PRISONERS,
MIEK?

WHAT HAVE
YOU PLANNED FOR
THEM?

THEY ARE BEING WASHED TO
AVOID ANY FURTHER...**CONFUSION**,
KORG. THEN THEY'LL HAVE THE
PAIN THEY'VE CAUSED RETURNED
TO THEM TENFOLD.

THEY
SLAUGHTERED A
HIVELING AND MASKED
THEIR SCENT WITH HIS
BLOOD. THIS DOES NOT
CONCERN HULK.

CAREFUL,
MIEK.

WE'RE HERE
FOR **JUSTICE**,
NOT JUST
REVENGE.

I KNOW,
ELLOE. BUT THESE
PRISONERS HAVE HURT
THE HIVE.

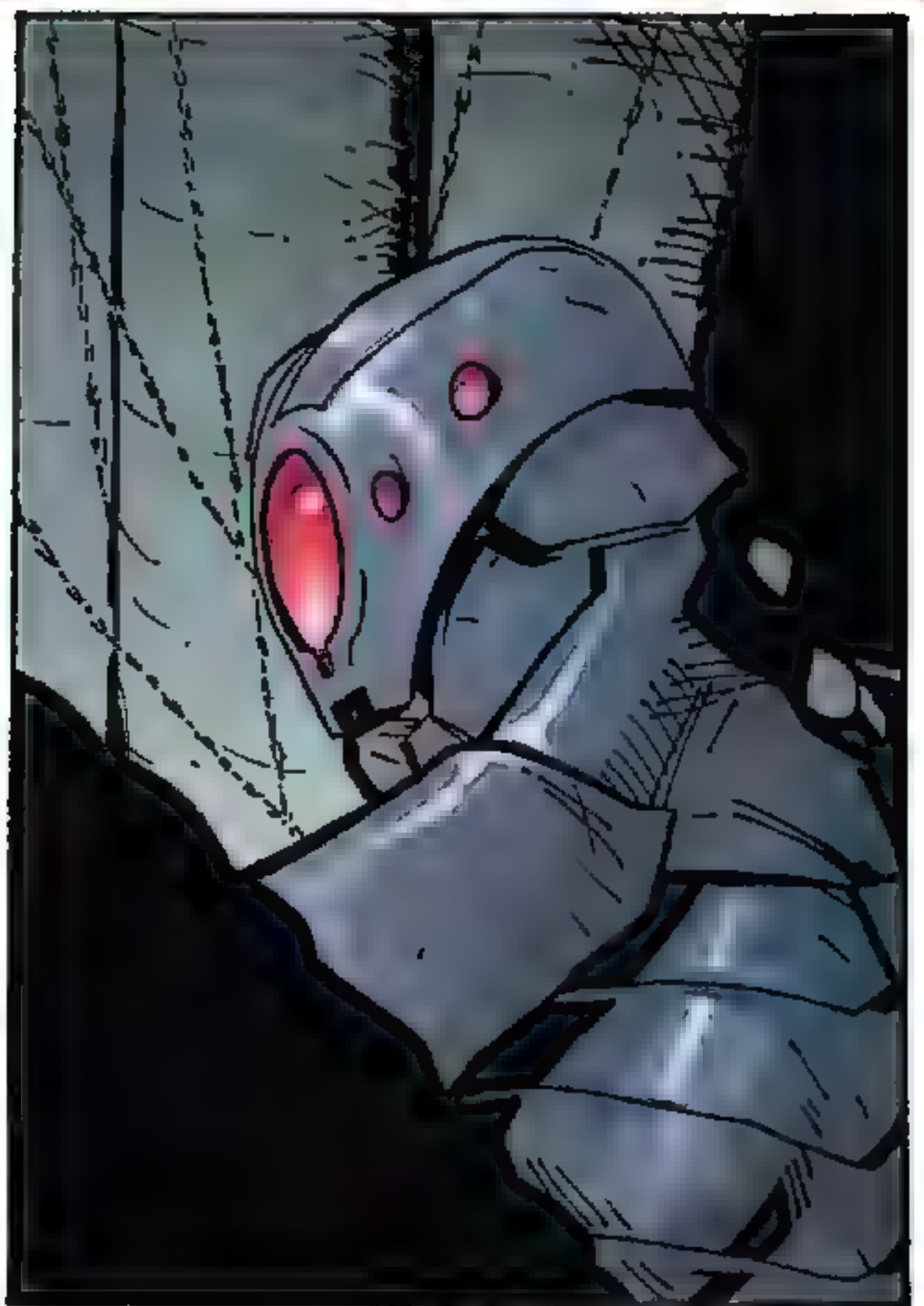
THEY
GET BUG
JUSTICE.





THEY DON'T
LOOK LIKE THEY'VE
HAD ENOUGH, DO
THEY, HUMBUG?

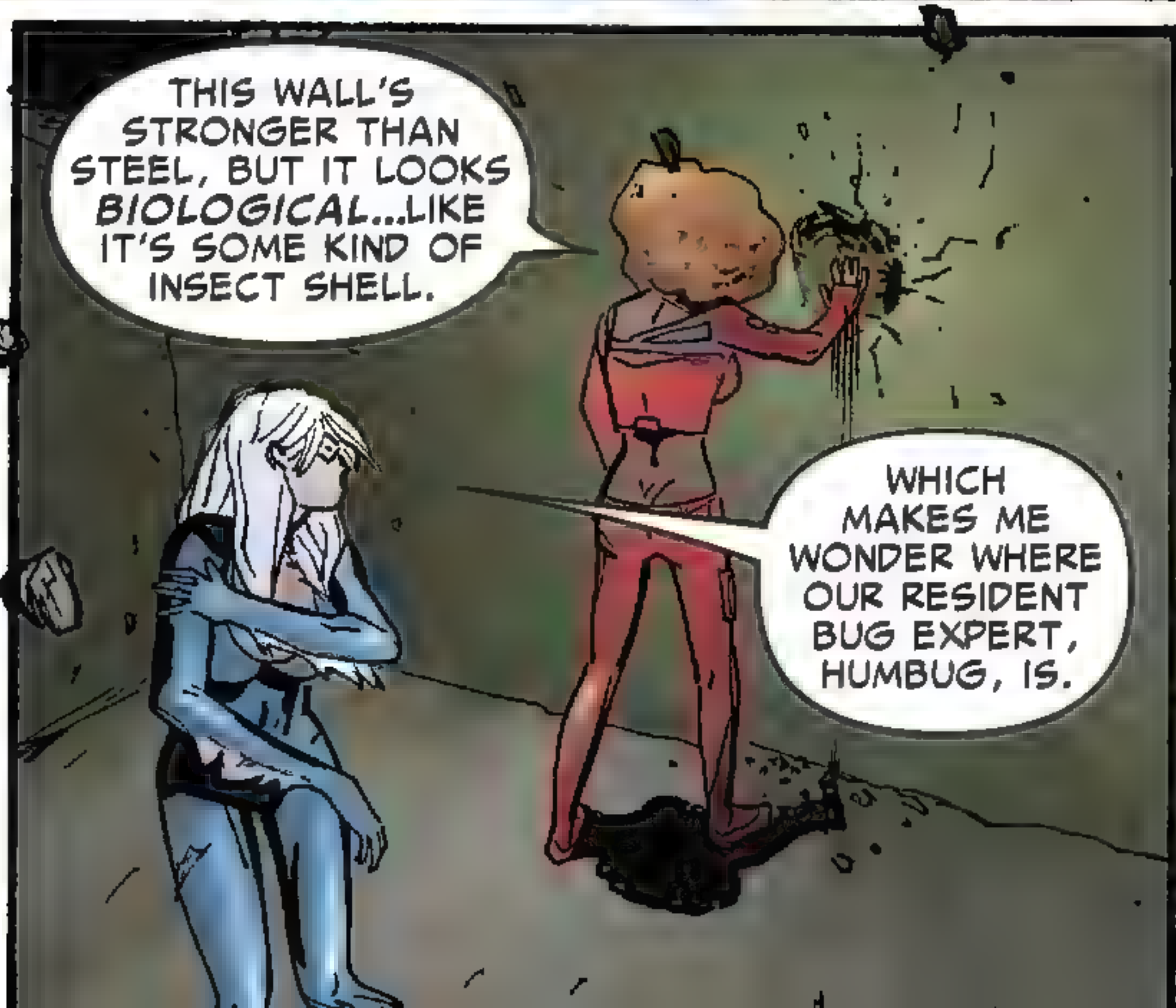
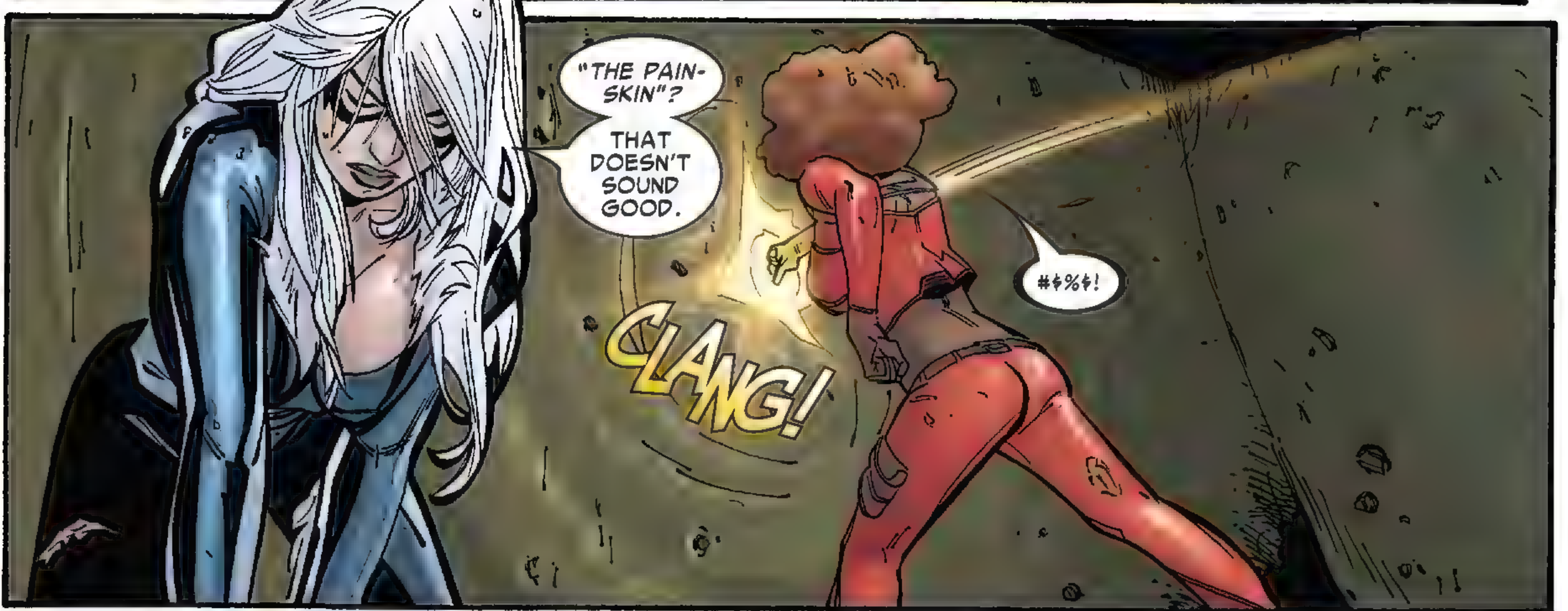
PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD ASK
THAT THE CLEANING
BE MORE...
THOROUGH.



MORE.



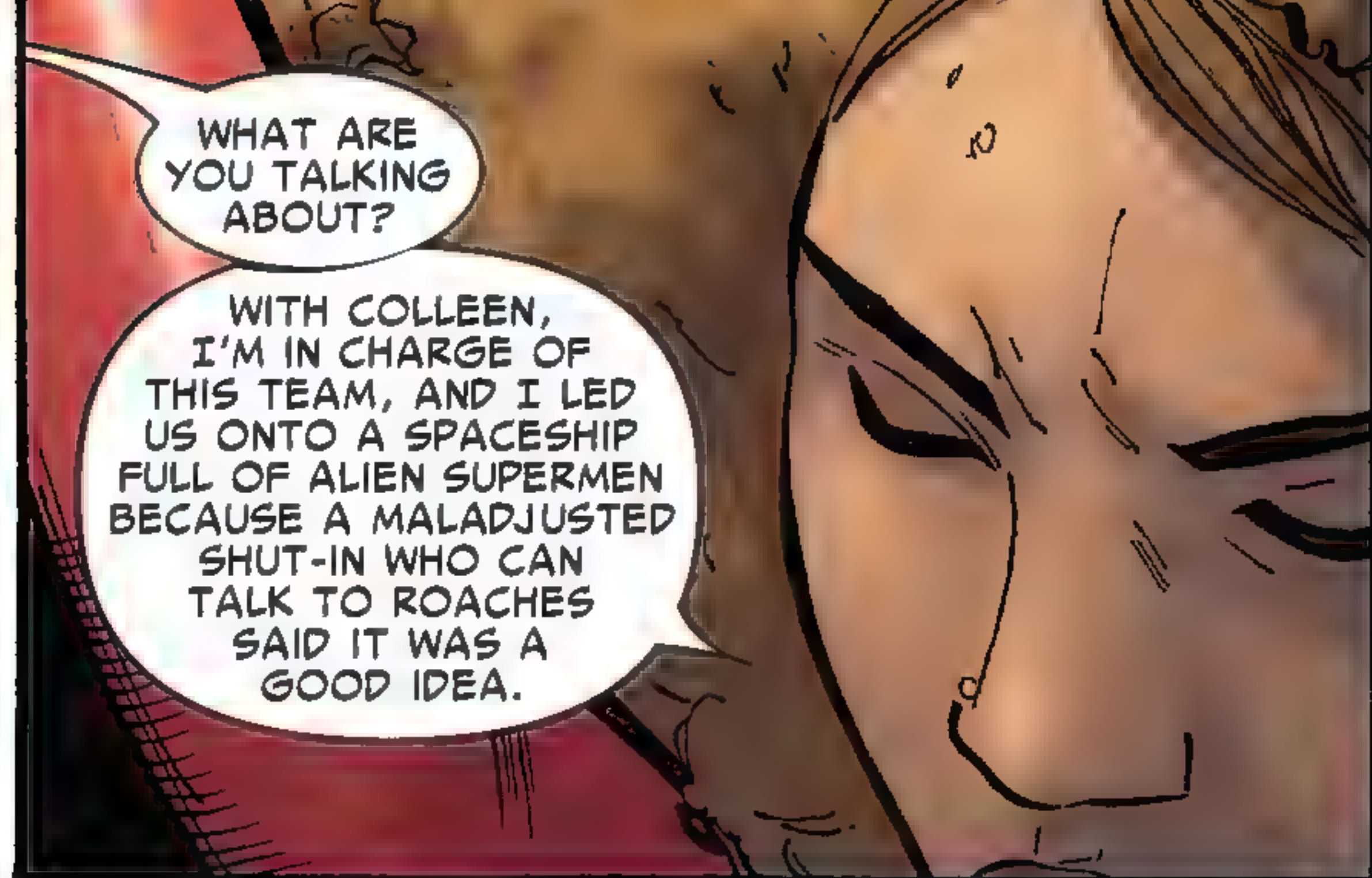






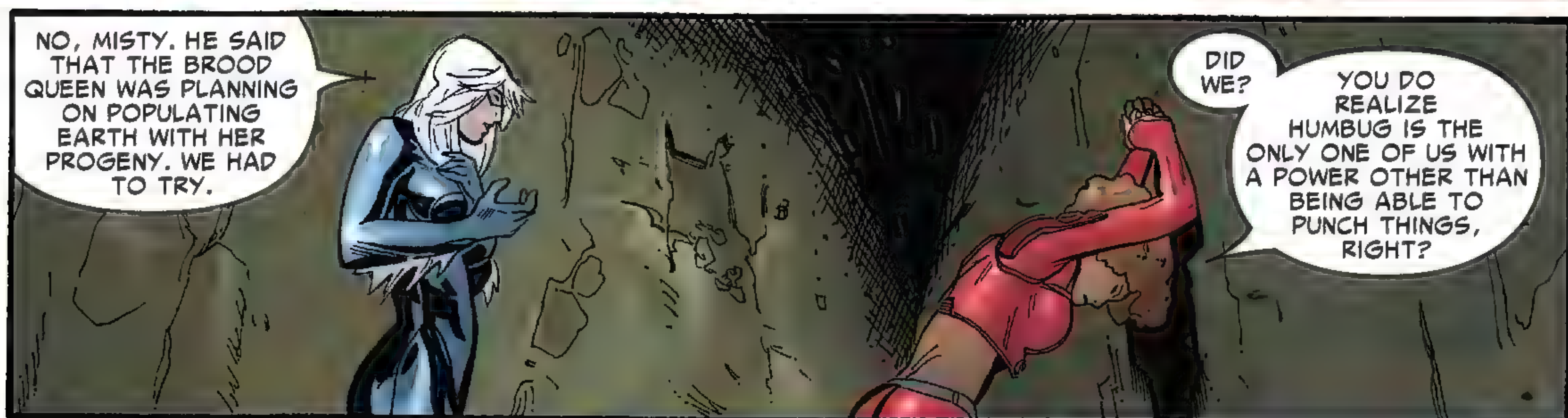
THAT @##%! THIS WHOLE THING WAS HIS IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE.

NO. NO, THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

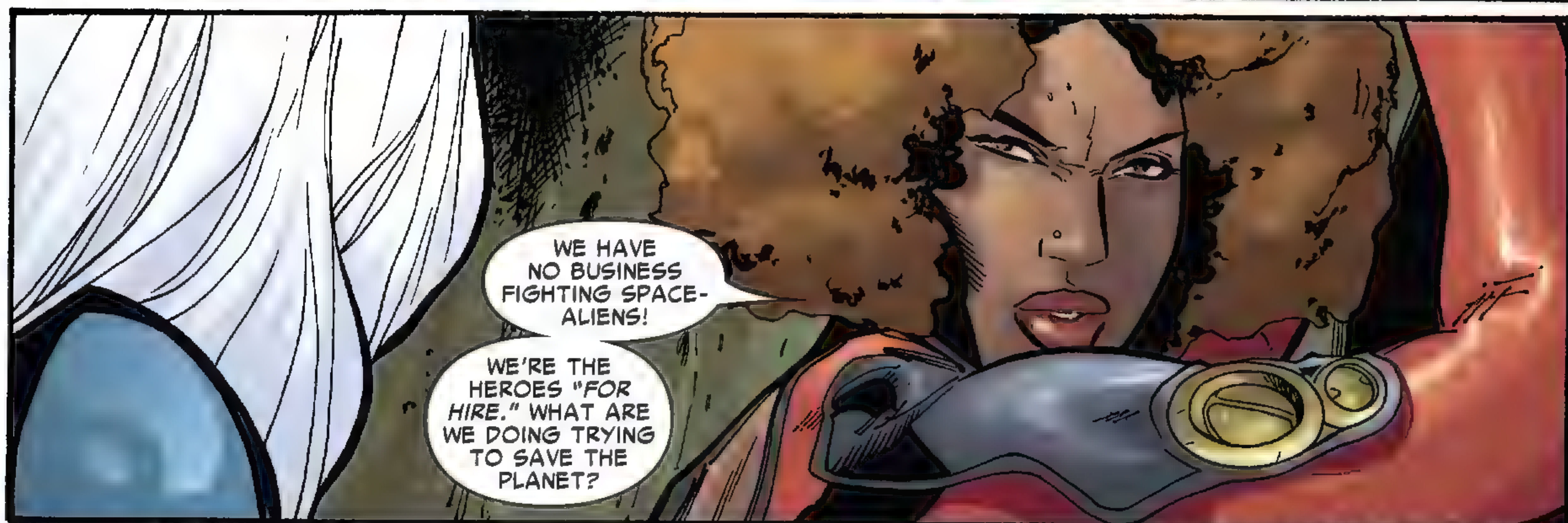
WITH COLLEEN, I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS TEAM, AND I LED US ONTO A SPACESHIP FULL OF ALIEN SUPERMEN BECAUSE A MALADJUSTED SHUT-IN WHO CAN TALK TO ROACHES SAID IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.



NO, MISTY. HE SAID THAT THE BROOD QUEEN WAS PLANNING ON POPULATING EARTH WITH HER PROGENY. WE HAD TO TRY.

DID WE?

YOU DO REALIZE HUMBUG IS THE ONLY ONE OF US WITH A POWER OTHER THAN BEING ABLE TO PUNCH THINGS, RIGHT?



WE HAVE NO BUSINESS FIGHTING SPACE-ALIENS!

WE'RE THE HEROES "FOR HIRE." WHAT ARE WE DOING TRYING TO SAVE THE PLANET?



WHAT THE @##% ARE WE DOING ON A SPACESHIP?

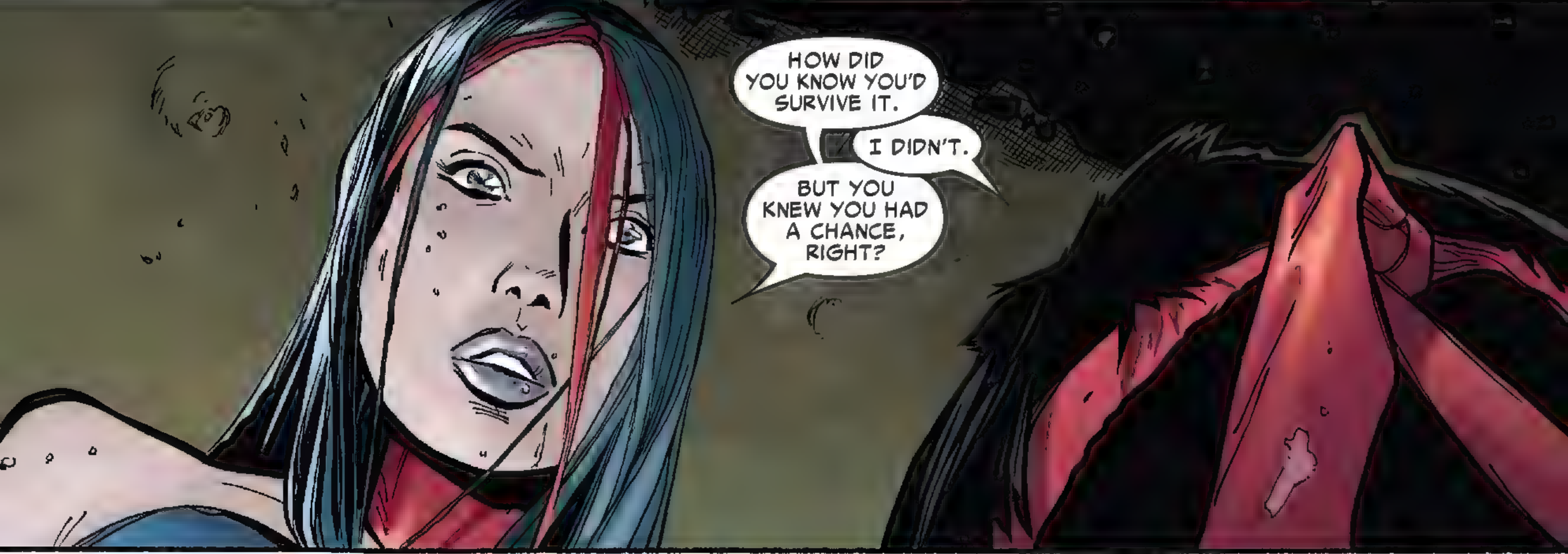


#@!%,
SHANG. YOU
SHOULD BE
DEAD.



MY EARS
ARE RINGING
FROM THE IMPACT OF
THAT PUNCH YOU
BLOCKED.

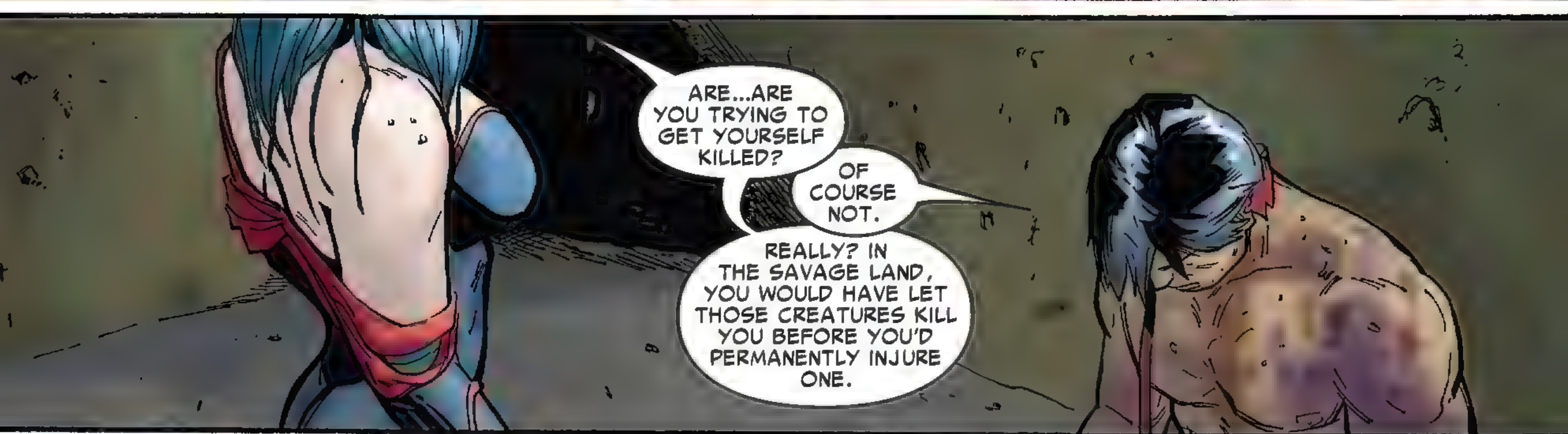
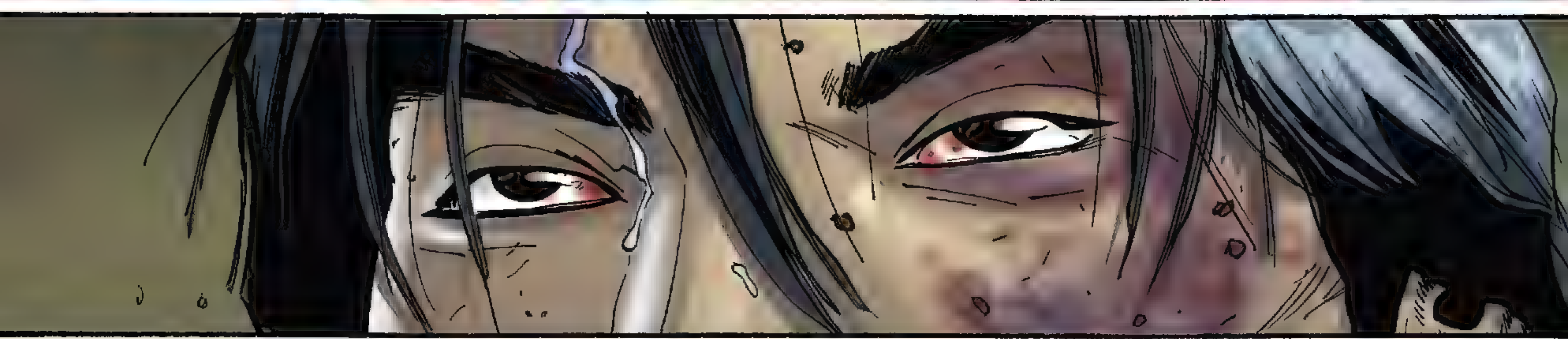
I WAS
ABLE TO FOCUS MY
CONCENTRATION BEFORE
IMPACT. I DISTRIBUTED
THE TRAUMA EQUALLY
OVER MY BODY.



HOW DID
YOU KNOW YOU'D
SURVIVE IT.

I DIDN'T.

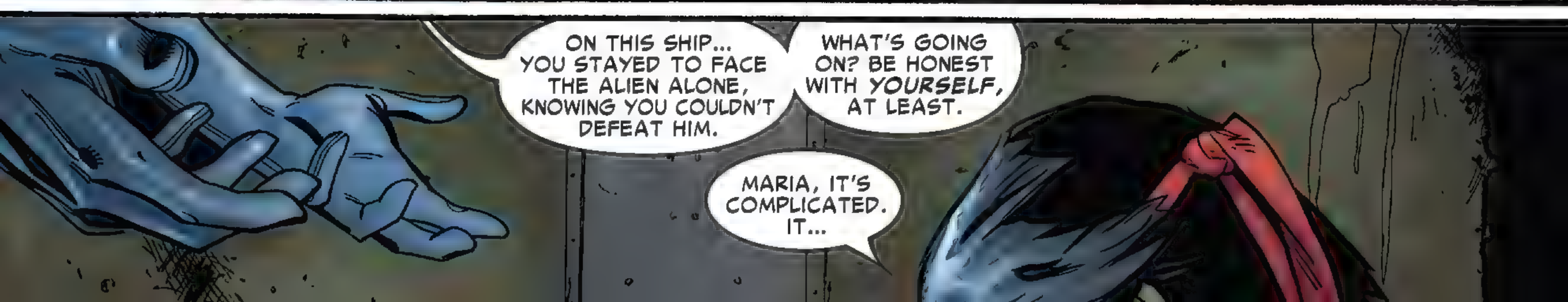
BUT YOU
KNEW YOU HAD
A CHANCE,
RIGHT?



ARE...ARE
YOU TRYING TO
GET YOURSELF
KILLED?

OF
COURSE
NOT.

REALLY? IN
THE SAVAGE LAND,
YOU WOULD HAVE LET
THOSE CREATURES KILL
YOU BEFORE YOU'D
PERMANENTLY INJURE
ONE.



ON THIS SHIP...
YOU STAYED TO FACE
THE ALIEN ALONE,
KNOWING YOU COULDN'T
DEFEAT HIM.

WHAT'S GOING
ON? BE HONEST
WITH YOURSELF,
AT LEAST.

MARIA, IT'S
COMPLICATED.
IT...



IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE I KILLED A MAN.



WHAT?

I WAS IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN NAMED LEIKO WU. WE WERE...PASSIONATE. I WAS BLIND TO THE FACT THAT THIS PASSION INFECTED MY BATTLES AS WELL.

I KILLED IN COMBAT... FREQUENTLY.



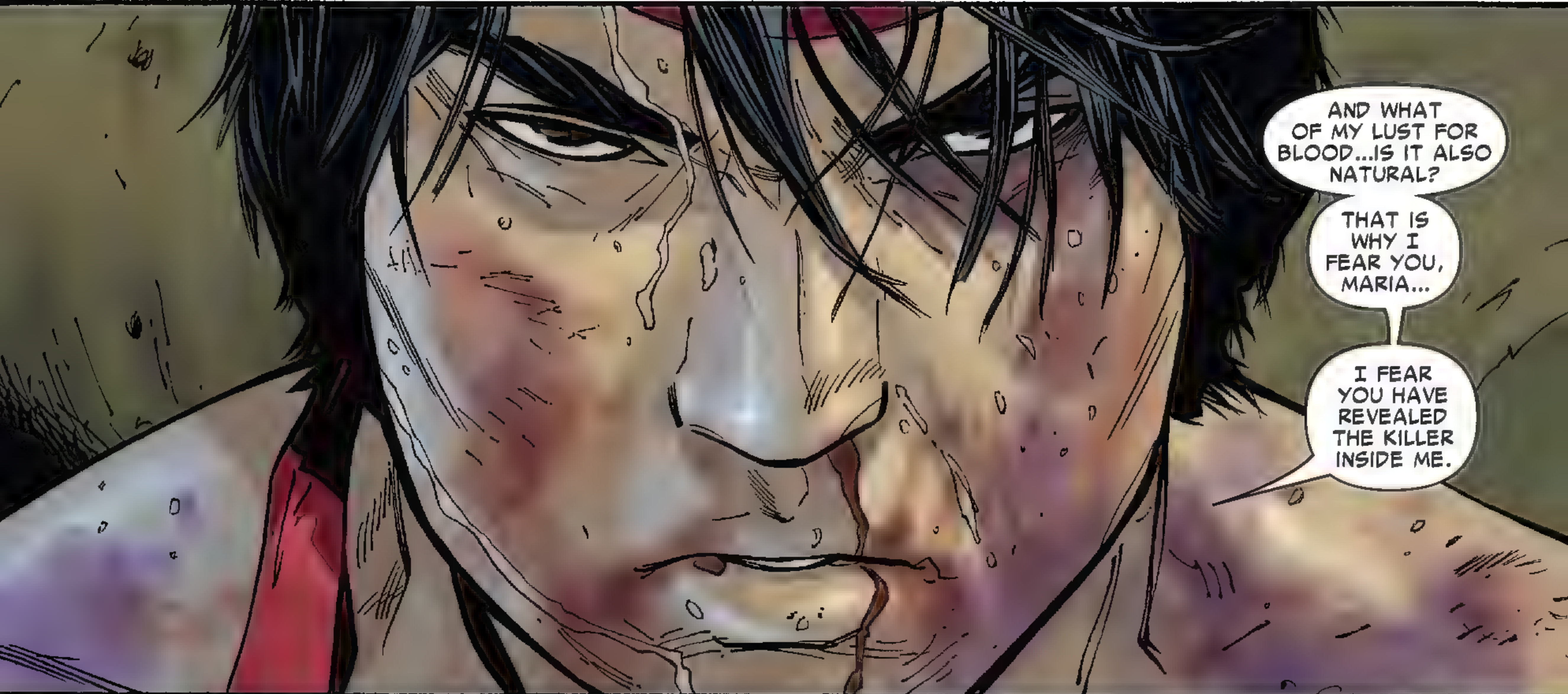
WHEN OUR PASSION LEFT, I SAW WHAT I'D BECOME. I TURNED TO TAOISM AND BECAME A MONK, SWEARING OFF CARNAL PLEASURES... HOPING TO QUIET THE MURDERER INSIDE ME. THEN...THEN I MET YOU.

AS MY LUST FOR YOU GREW, SO DID THE VIOLENCE IN MY HEART. I LOST CONTROL FIGHTING THE HEADMEN... THEN AGAIN IN THE SAVAGE LAND WHEN WE...WE...



I'M SORRY. A MONK DOES NOT SPEAK OF SUCH THINGS.

A MONK? SHANG, YOU ARE A MAN! THIS "LUST FOR WOMEN" IS PART OF YOU. IT'S NATURAL.



AND WHAT OF MY LUST FOR BLOOD...IS IT ALSO NATURAL?

THAT IS WHY I FEAR YOU, MARIA...

I FEAR YOU HAVE REVEALED THE KILLER INSIDE ME.

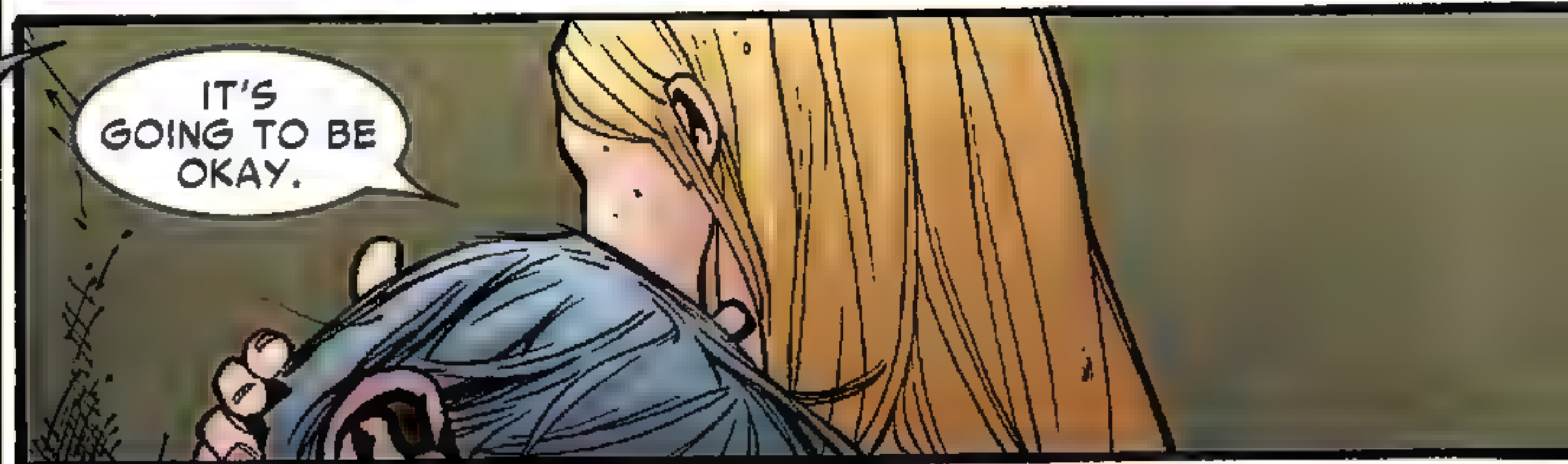


EEEEEE
EEEEEE
AII!!

MOONBOY,
STOP! IT'S GOING
TO BE OKAY...I
PROMISE!



THERE
YOU GO.



IT'S
GOING TO BE
OKAY.



HUMBUG'S
STILL OUT THERE
SOMEWHERE.
DON'T WORRY...



SSHHHHH.

HE'LL COME
FOR US. HE
WOULDN'T LET
ANYTHING HAPPEN
TO ME...

"...HE'S GOT A
BIGGER CRUSH ON
ME THAN YOU DO."

SHE
KNEW.

GIVE
THEM NO MORE
THOUGHT,
HUMBUG.

WHAT WILL
BECOME OF
MY...FRIENDS.

A HIVELING
WAS KILLED.
MIEK WILL PUNISH
THEM ACCORDING
TO HIS PEOPLE'S
CUSTOMS.

WHICH
ARE?

WE ARE
PREPARING
CATACOMBS UNDER THE
EARTH-PLACE "MADISON SQUARE
GARDENS." MIEK WILL HATCH
THE NERVE-MAGGOTS
THERE.

ONCE ATTACHED
TO YOUR FRIENDS,
TIME WILL SLOW AS
THEY ENDURE PAIN FOR
WHAT FEELS LIKE
AN ETERNITY.

ARE YOU
HAVING SECOND
THOUGHTS?



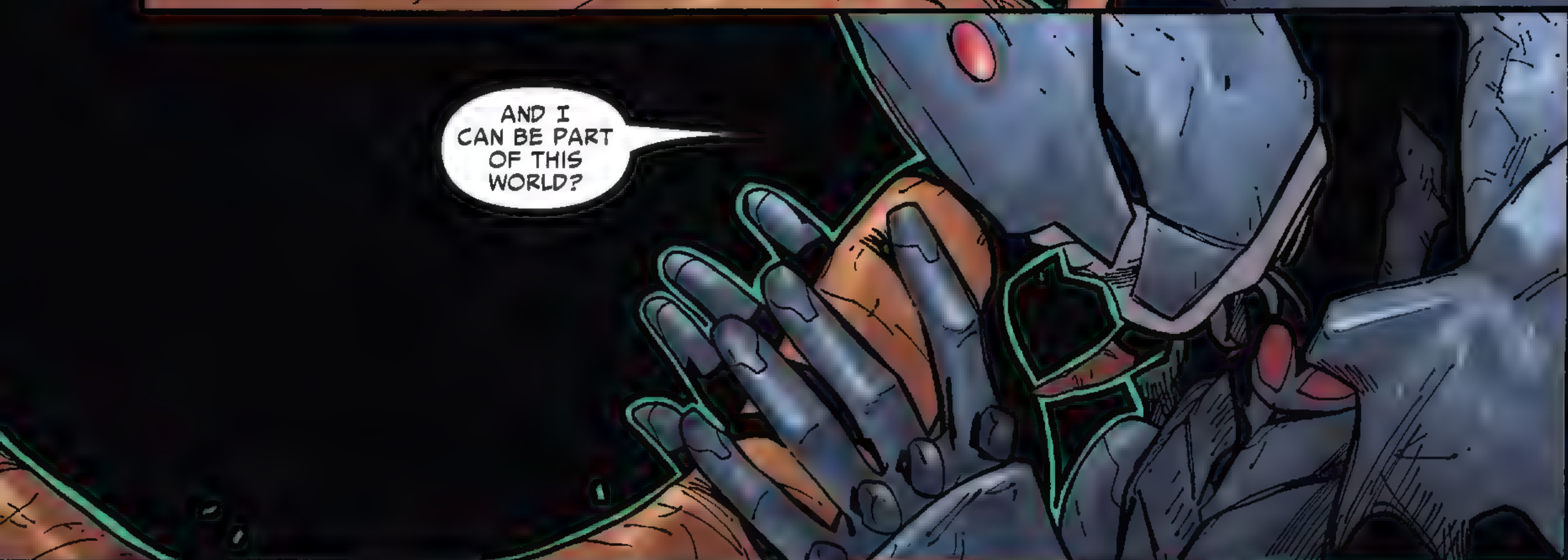
OF COURSE NOT. THE HUMAN WORLD NEVER WELCOMED ME. BUT I DON'T SEE WHY WE CAN'T LET THEM GO. THEY ARE NO THREAT TO US.

THEY ARE ALL A THREAT TO US, HALF-KIND. THE EARTH MAMMALS WILL NEVER ACCEPT INSECTS AS AN EQUAL SPECIES.

THAT IS WHY WE MUST MAKE A NEW WORLD IN THE CATACOMBS BELOW. ONE WHERE WE MAY PROSPER.



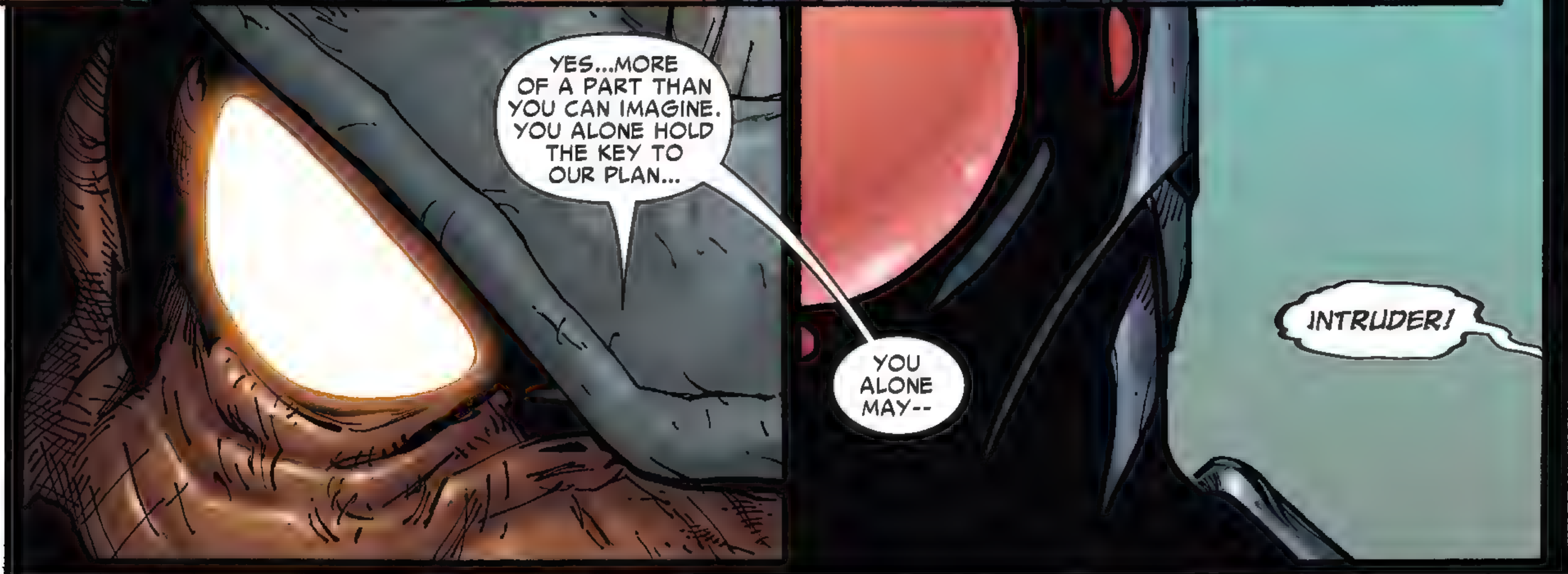
AND I CAN BE PART OF THIS WORLD?



YES...MORE OF A PART THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. YOU ALONE HOLD THE KEY TO OUR PLAN...

YOU ALONE MAY--

INTRUDER!





YOU
INVADE BROOD'S
QUARTERS?!
K-K-K-K!

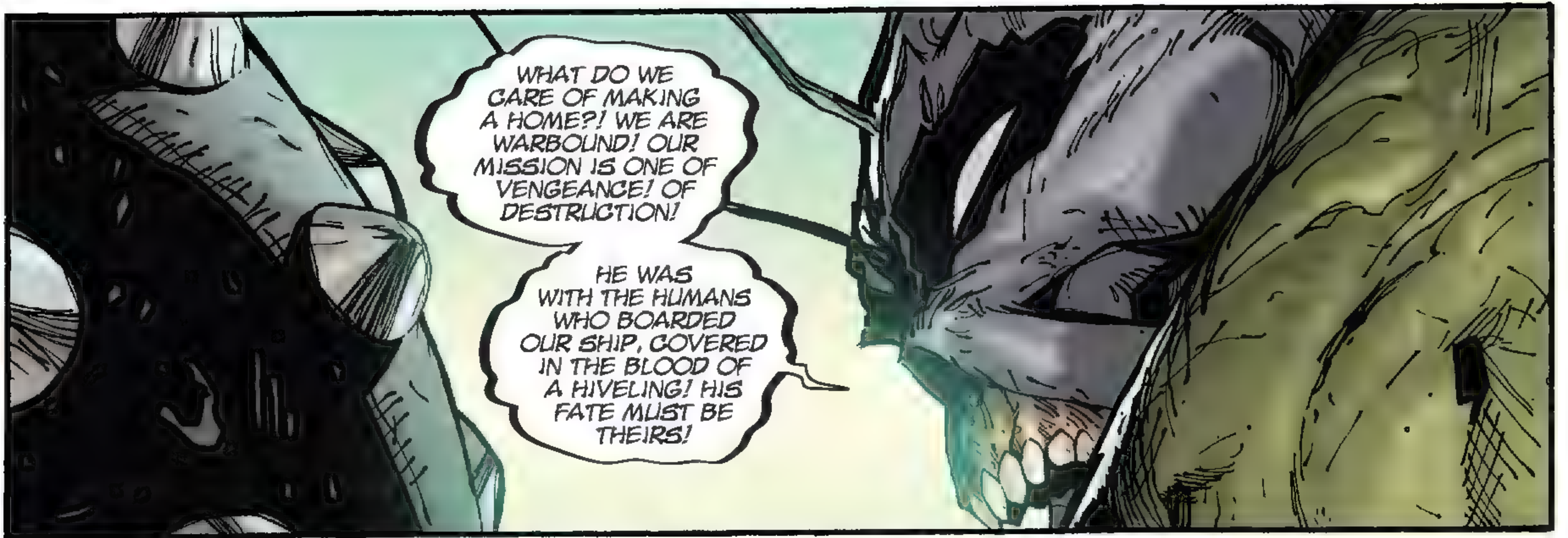
YOU WILL
DIE FOR
THIS.

GKKK.



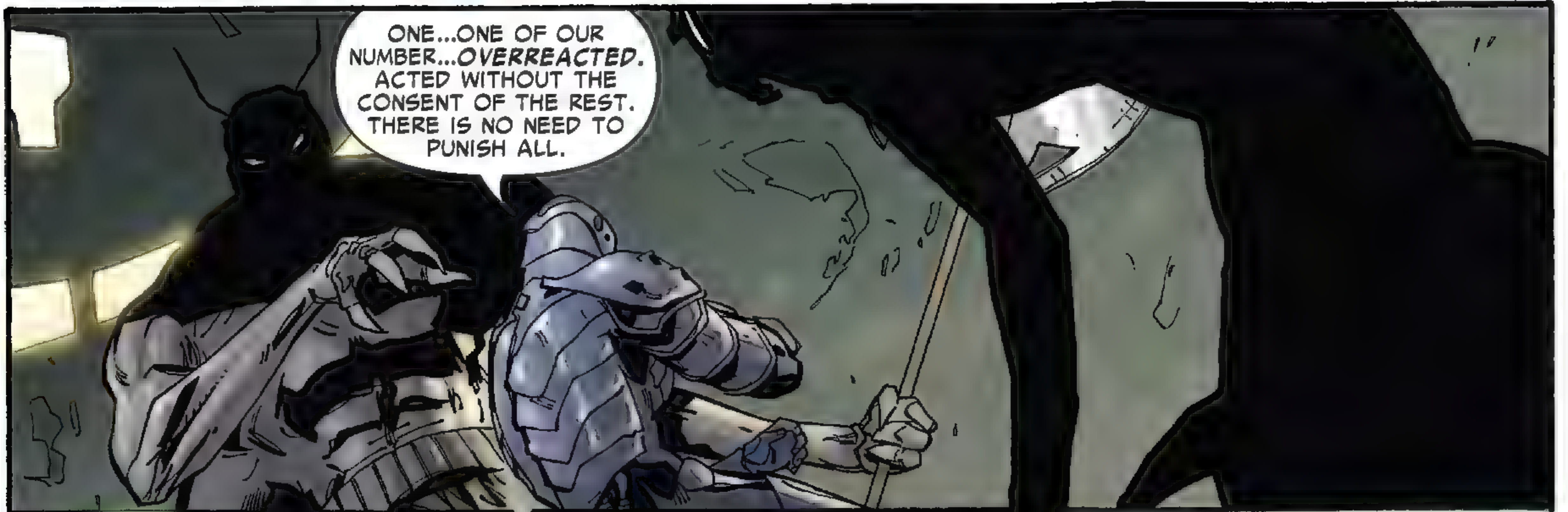
MIEK, NO!
HE HAS BEEN
TOUCHED BY
EARTH'S HIVE-
MIND!

HE IS
THE KEY
TO MAKING A
NEST ON THIS
PLANET!



WHAT DO WE
CARE OF MAKING
A HOME?! WE ARE
WARBOUND! OUR
MISSION IS ONE OF
VENGEANCE! OF
DESTRUCTION!

HE WAS
WITH THE HUMANS
WHO BOARDED
OUR SHIP, COVERED
IN THE BLOOD OF
A HIVELING! HIS
FATE MUST BE
THEIRS!



ONE...ONE OF OUR
NUMBER...OVERREACTED.
ACTED WITHOUT THE
CONSENT OF THE REST.
THERE IS NO NEED TO
PUNISH ALL.



MIEK, WE
CAME HERE
FOR JUSTICE.

SSSSSS...

THEN HOW
CAN WE KNOW
WHICH ONE TO
HURT?



THAT'S
EASY...

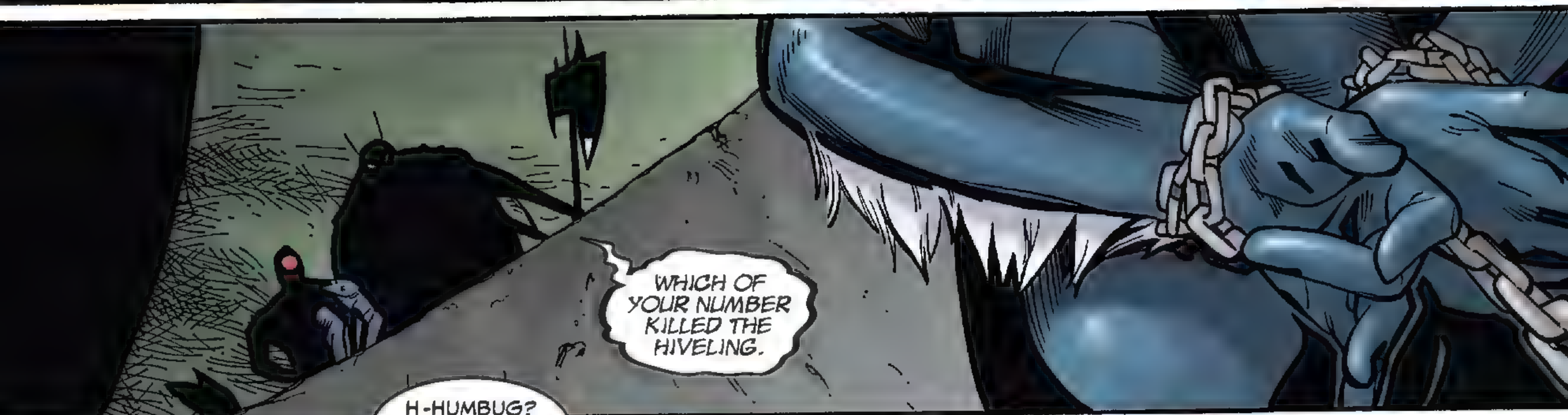


GATHER
THEM.



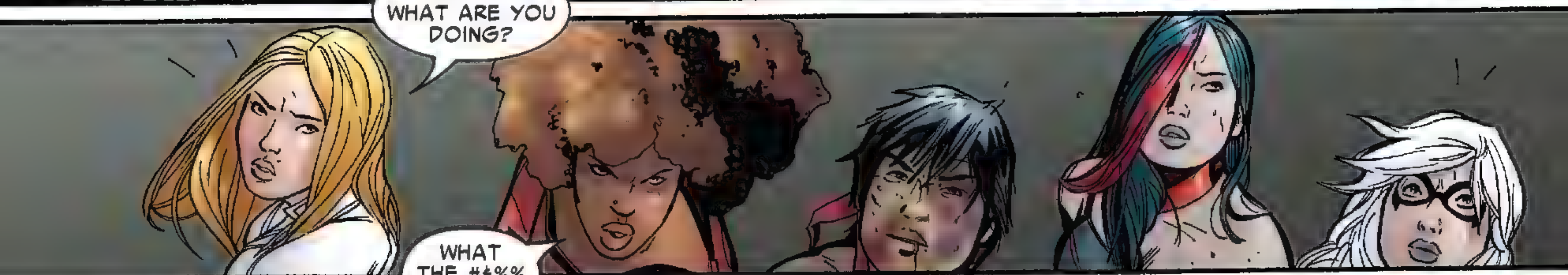
"I WILL TELL YOU
EXACTLY WHO
DID IT."

WELL,
THEN...

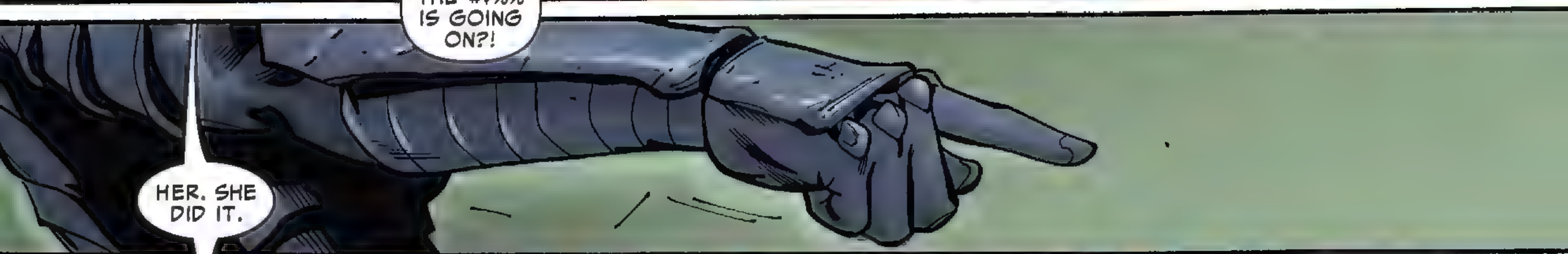


WHICH OF
YOUR NUMBER
KILLED THE
HIVELING.

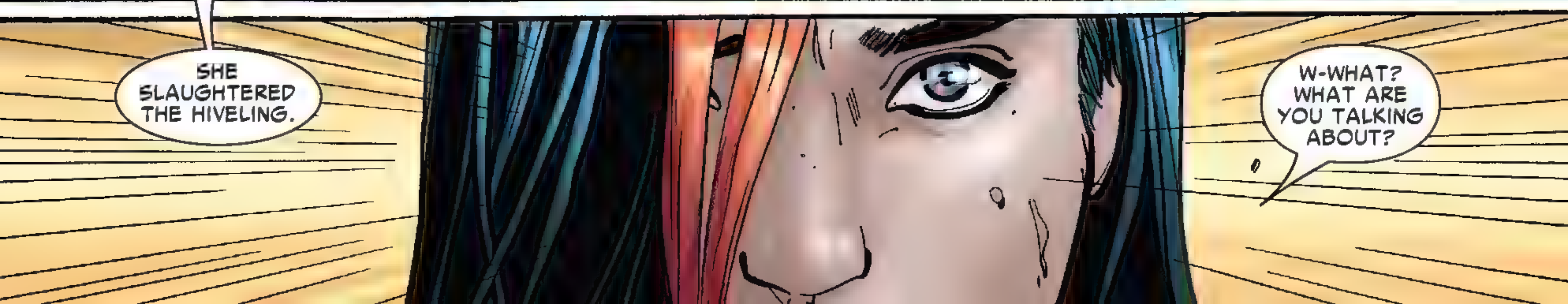
H-HUMBUG?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?



WHAT
THE #%%
IS GOING
ON?!

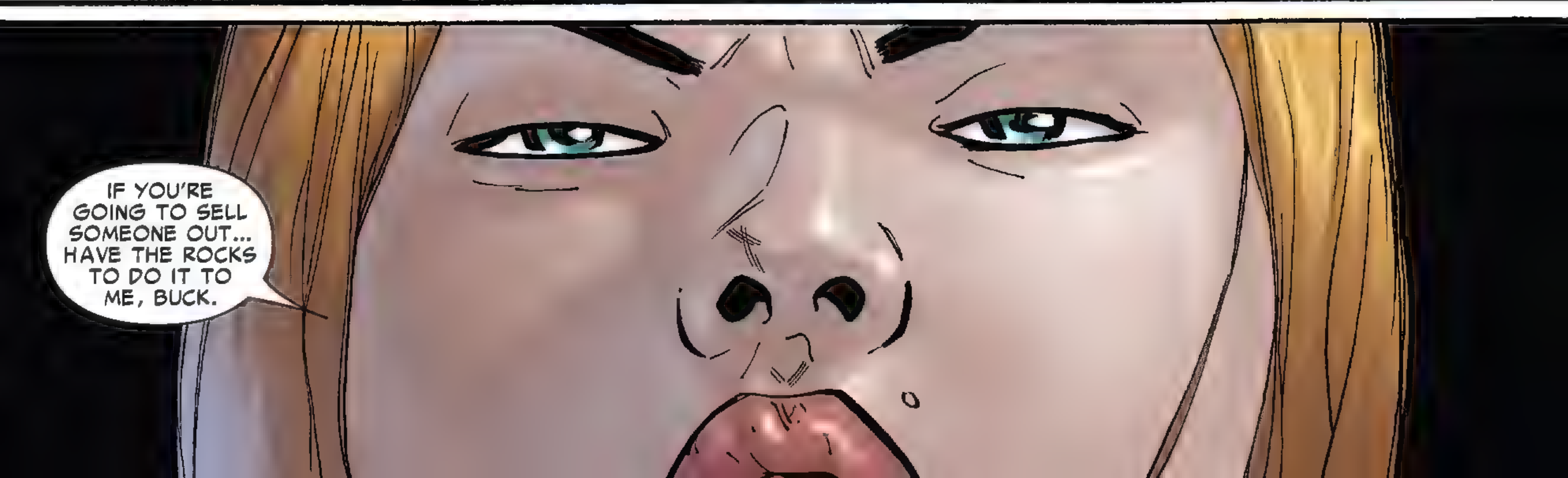
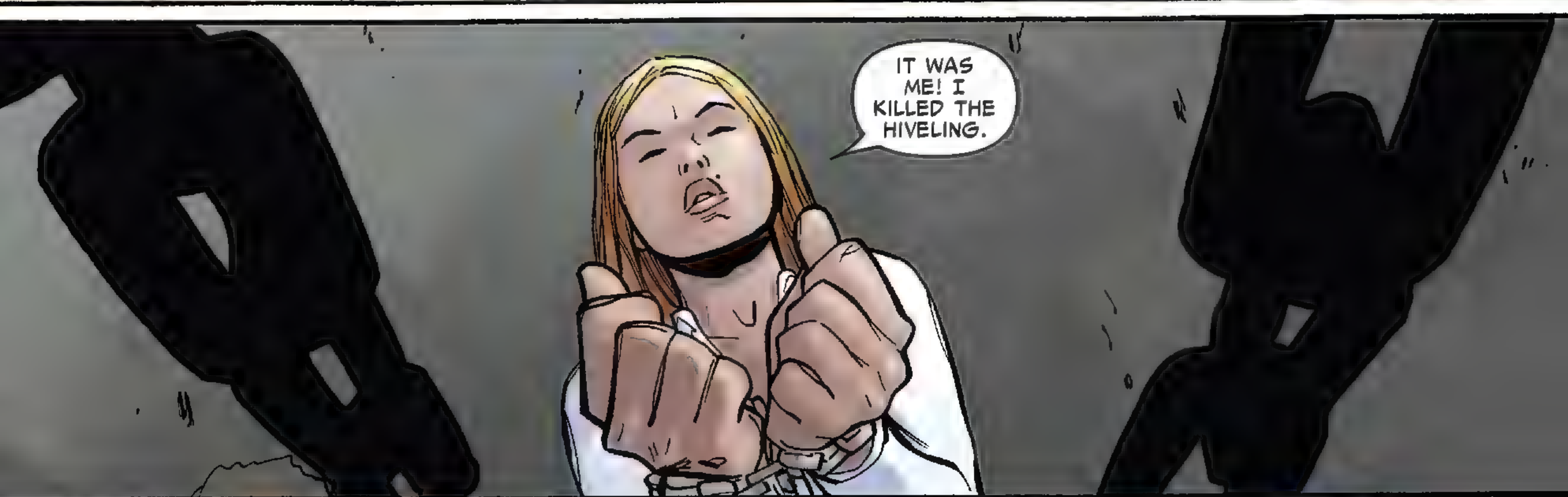
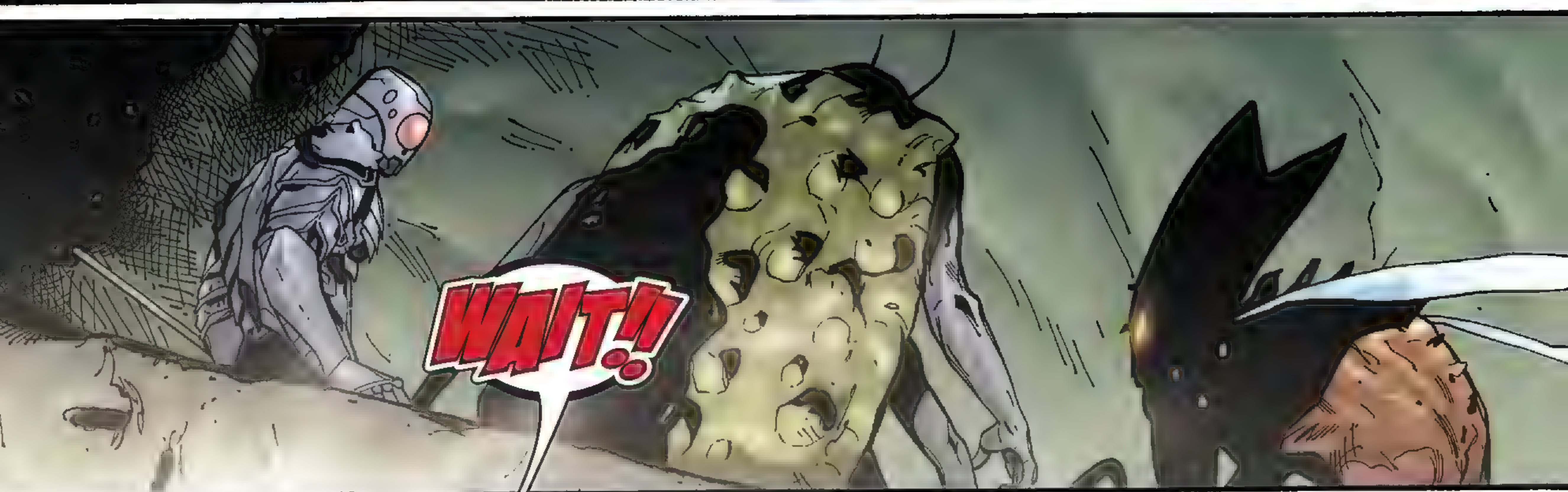
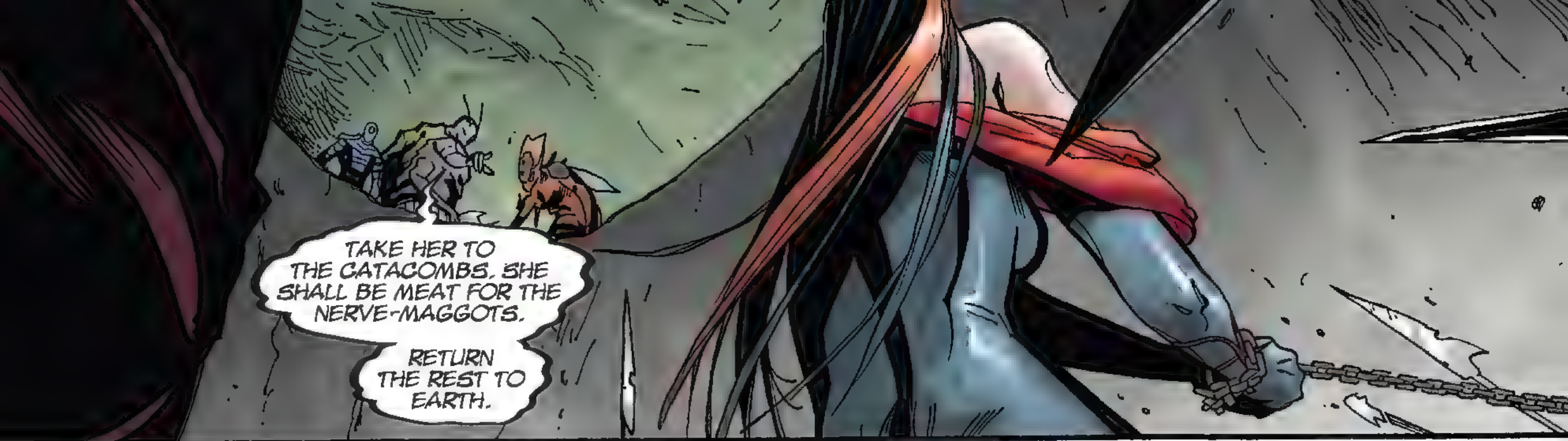


HER. SHE
DID IT.



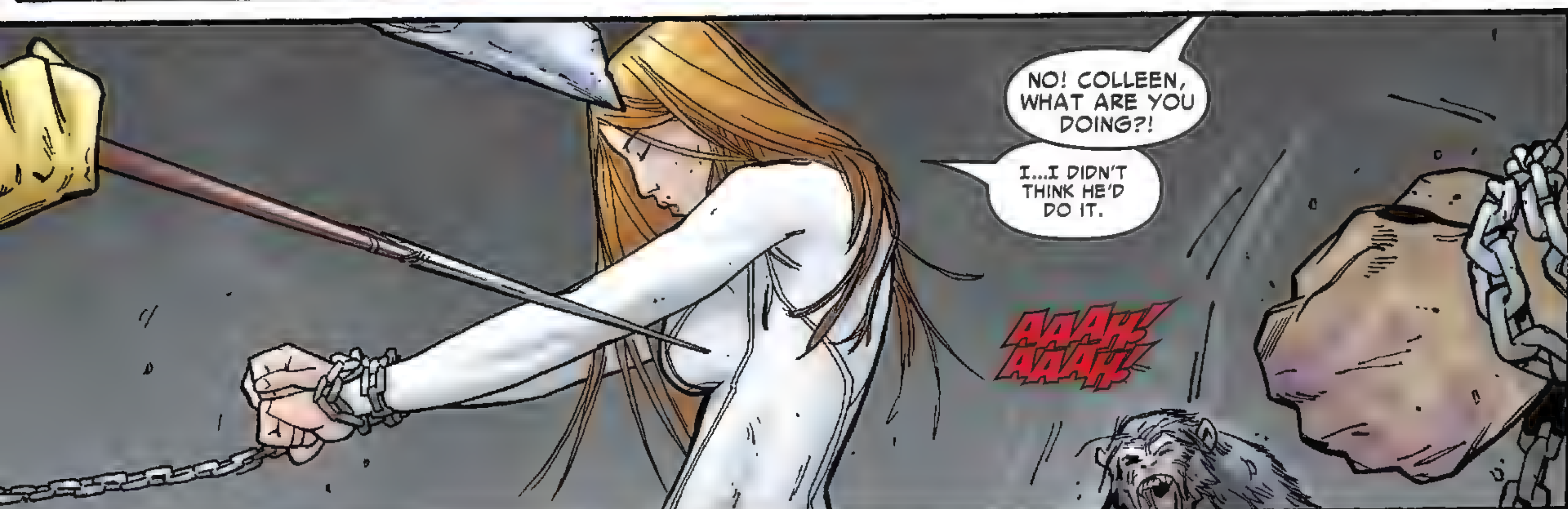
SHE
SLAUGHTERED
THE HIVELING.

W-WHAT?
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?





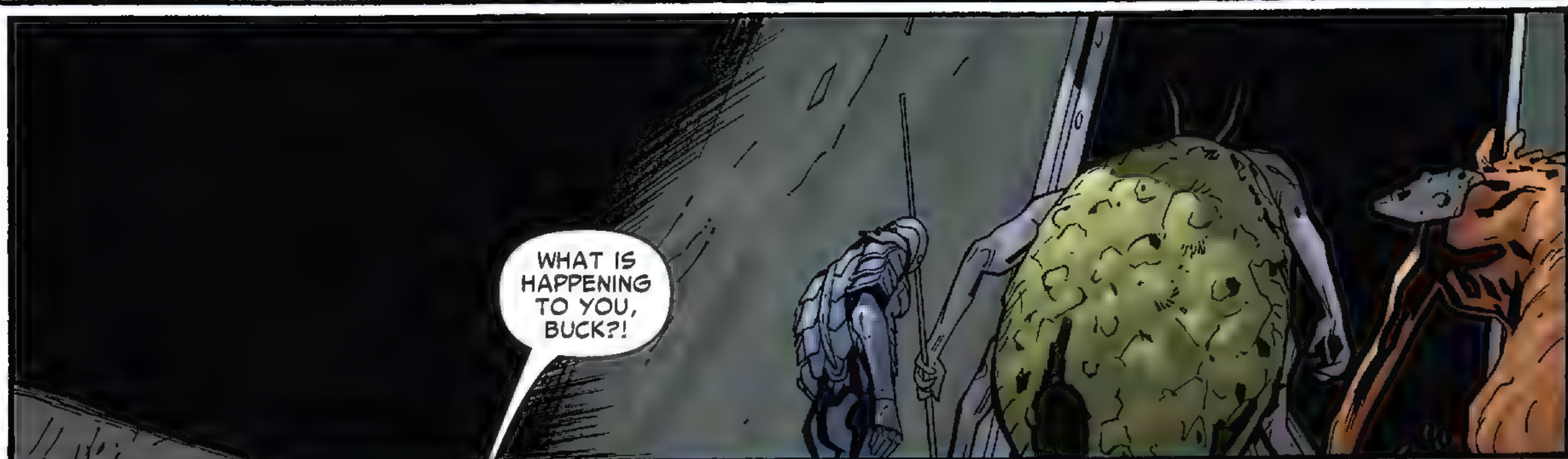
TAKE THEM BOTH.



NO! COLLEEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I...I DIDN'T THINK HE'D DO IT.

AAAAH!
AAAAH!



WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU, BUCK?!



WHAT ARE YOU?

TO BE CONTINUED...

FOR THE FIRST SIXTEEN YEARS OF MY LIFE, I HAD NO REASON TO THINK I WAS ANYTHING OTHER THAN A NORMAL TEENAGER.

THEN MY FREAKY POISON STINGER ARM SUDDENLY DECIDED TO ACTIVATE ITSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SCHOOL'S HOMECOMING DANCE...

...KILLING MY BOYFRIEND, GREG.

IT WAS LIFE ON THE RUN AFTER THAT, UNTIL S.H.I.E.L.D. FOUND ME.

HEROES FOR HIRE

KILLER INSTINCTS

PART THREE

I'VE LEARNED TO CONTROL MY STINGER A LOT BETTER SINCE THEN.

FOR EXAMPLE, I EVEN MANAGED TO SUBDUDE THE HULK IN AUSTRALIA BY USING THE STINGER TO ABSORB THE AMBIENT GAMMA RADIATION GIVEN OFF BY HIS BODY...

...TURNING IT INTO A GAMMA TOXIN THAT TEMPORARILY INCAPACITATED HIM.*

BUT THE ONE THING I'VE NEVER, EVER DONE SINCE THAT STUPID DANCE...

...IS KILL.

GOT ANY
ORGANS THAT
MAKE YOU
BULLETPROOF,
HON?

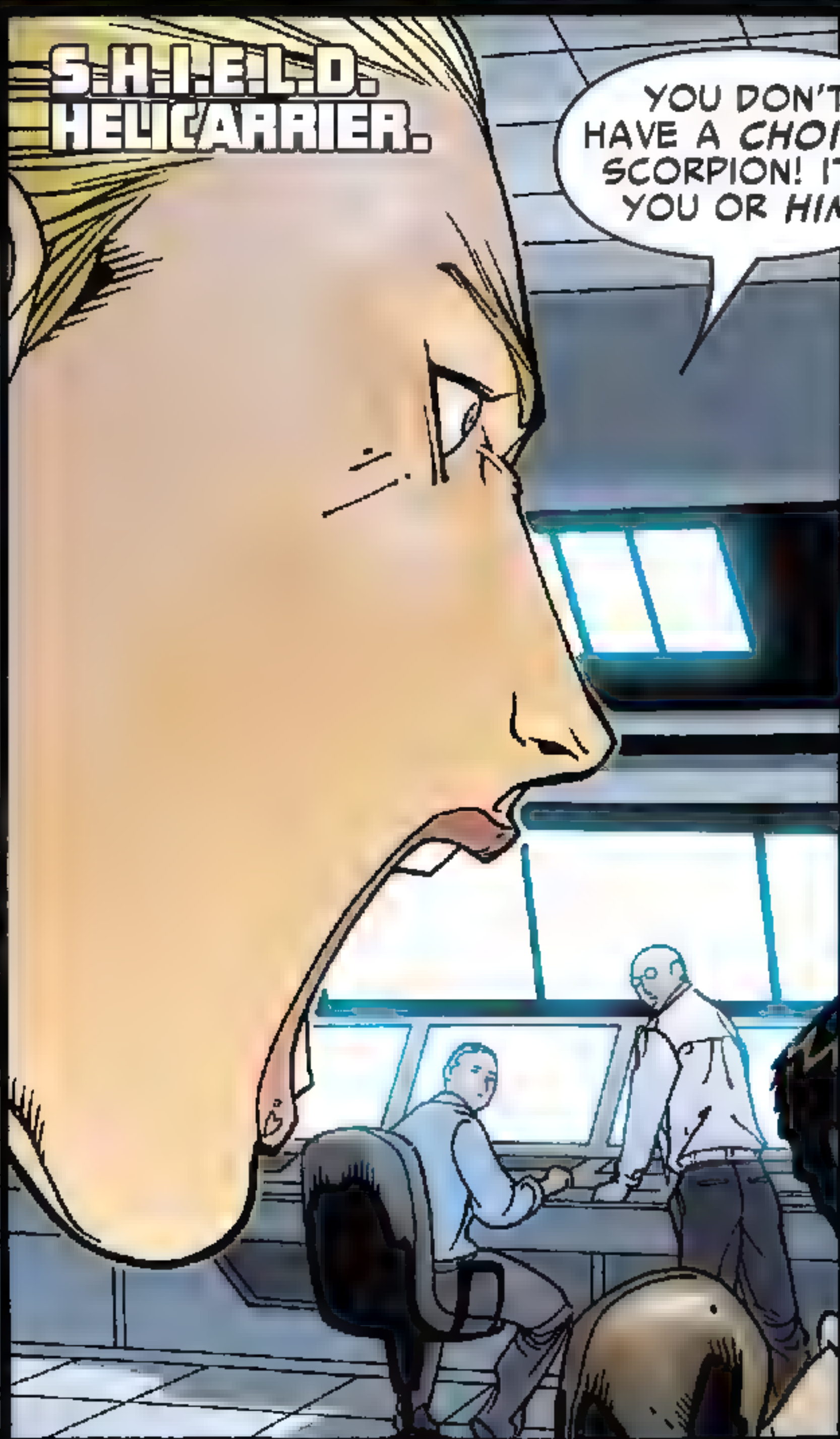
NO?
TSK.

KIND OF AN
OVERSIGHT,
DON'T'CHA
THINK?

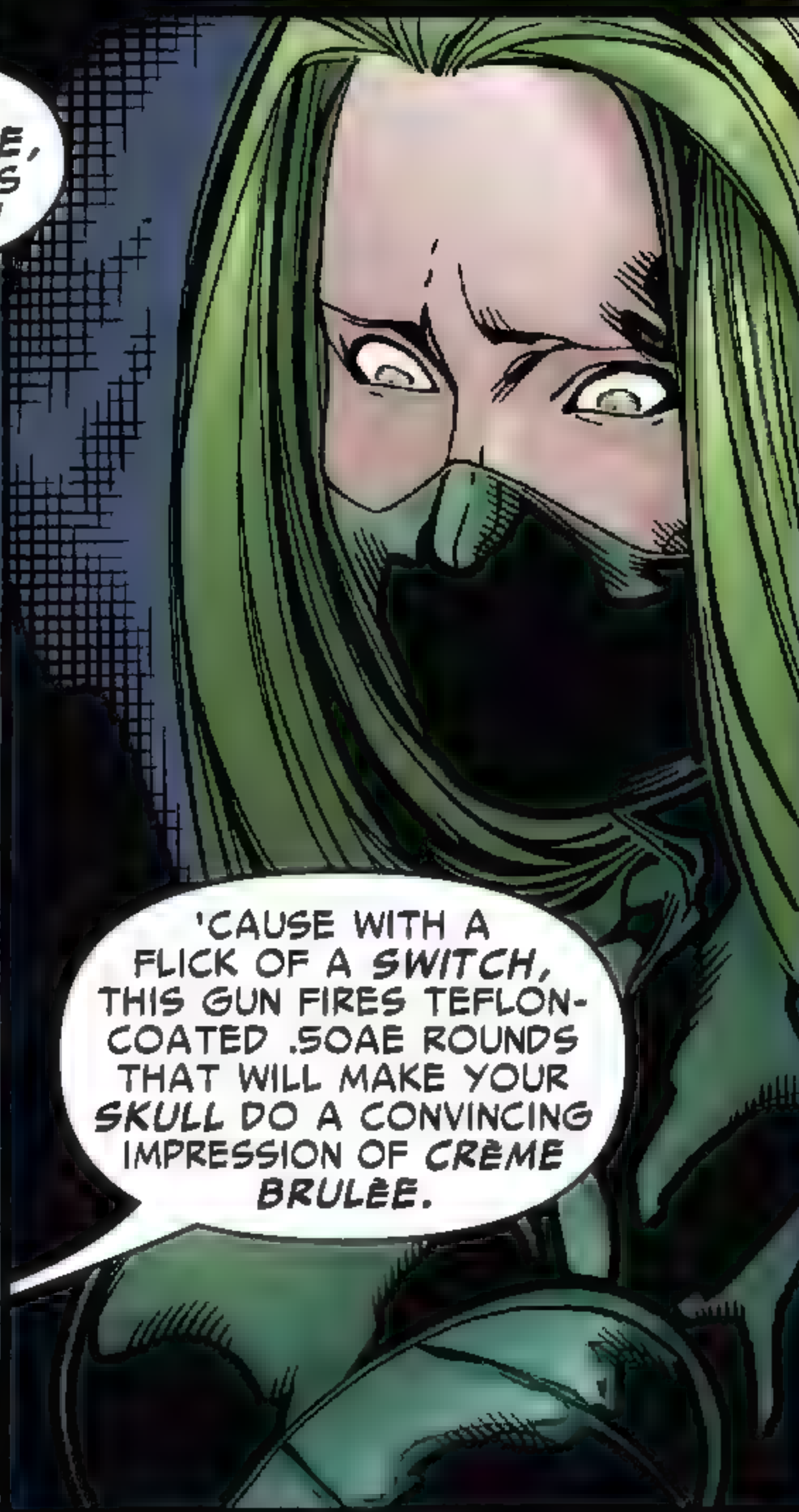


S.H.I.E.L.D.
HELICARRIER.

YOU DON'T
HAVE A CHOICE,
SCORPION! IT'S
YOU OR HIM!



'CAUSE WITH A
FLICK OF A SWITCH,
THIS GUN FIRES TEFLON-
COATED .50AE ROUNDS
THAT WILL MAKE YOUR
SKULL DO A CONVINCING
IMPRESSION OF CRÈME
BRULÉE.



CLICK!

THIS
SWITCH, RIGHT
HERE.



I'M WITH THE GOOD GUYS
NOW. AND THE ONE WAY
YOU CAN TELL THE GOOD
GUYS FROM THE BAD...



...IS THAT
GOOD GUYS
DON'T KILL.

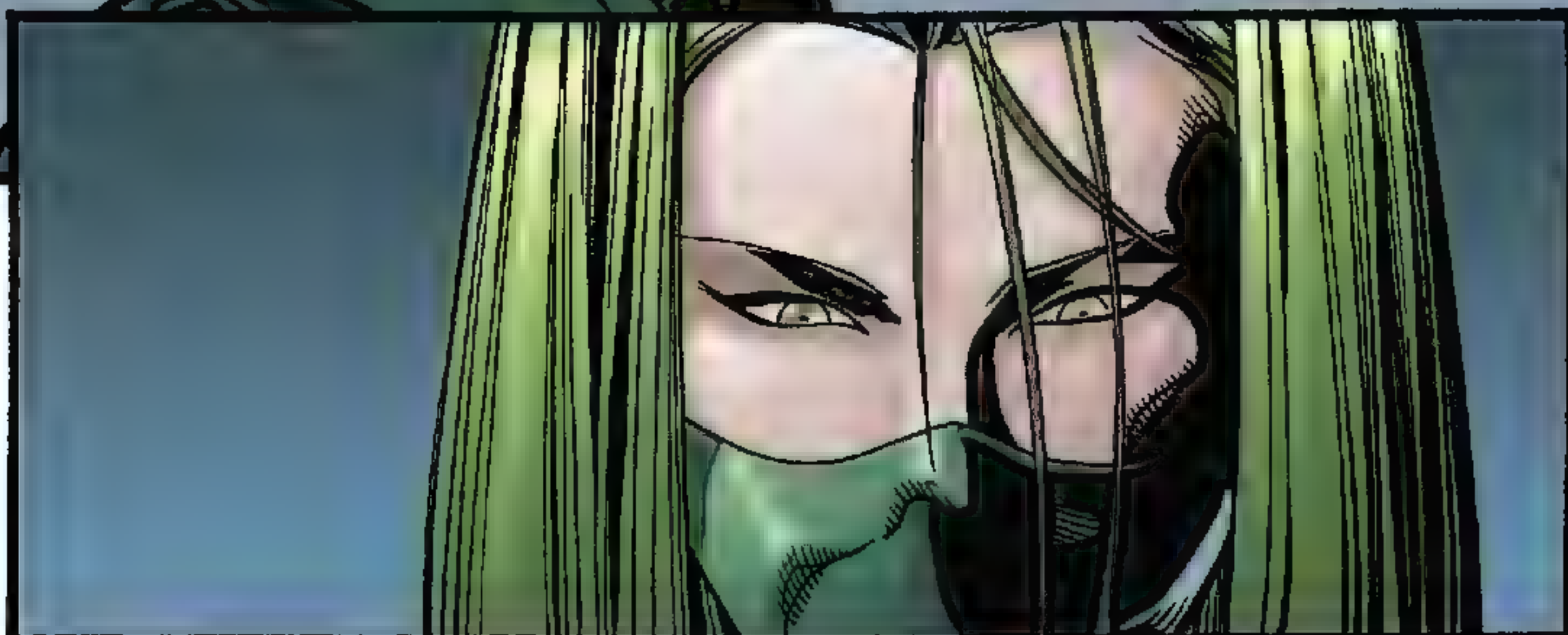


DO IT,
CARMILLA!
DO IT!

FINISH
HIM!



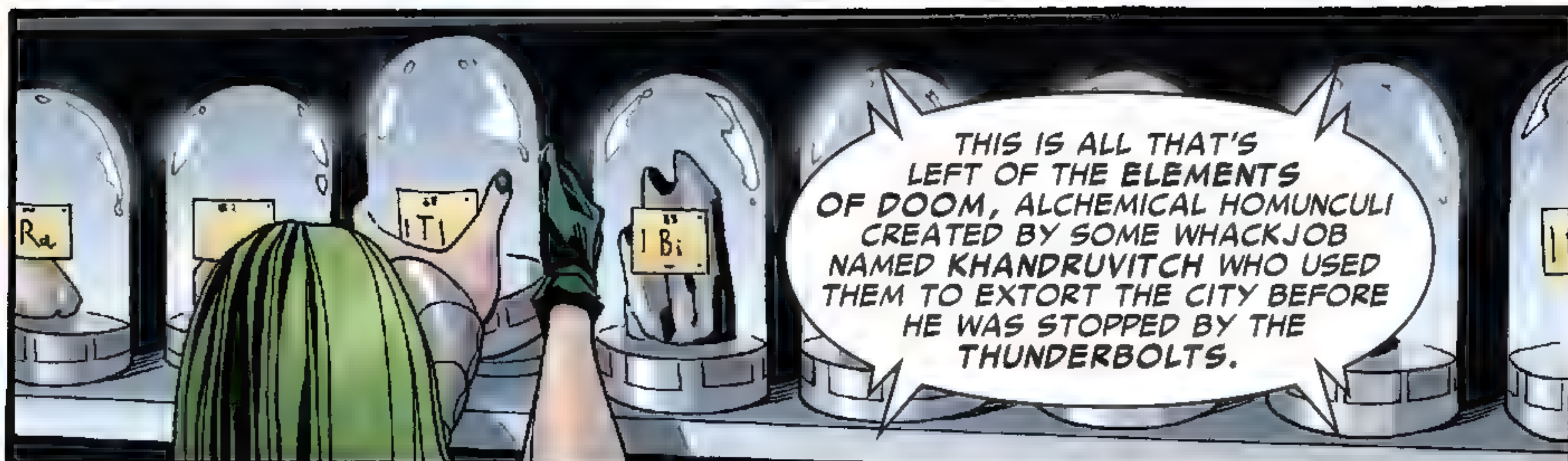
SO NOW
WHAT I NEED
FOR YOU TO DO
IS BE A GOOD GIRL
AND LET ME WALTZ
RIGHT OUT
OF HERE...



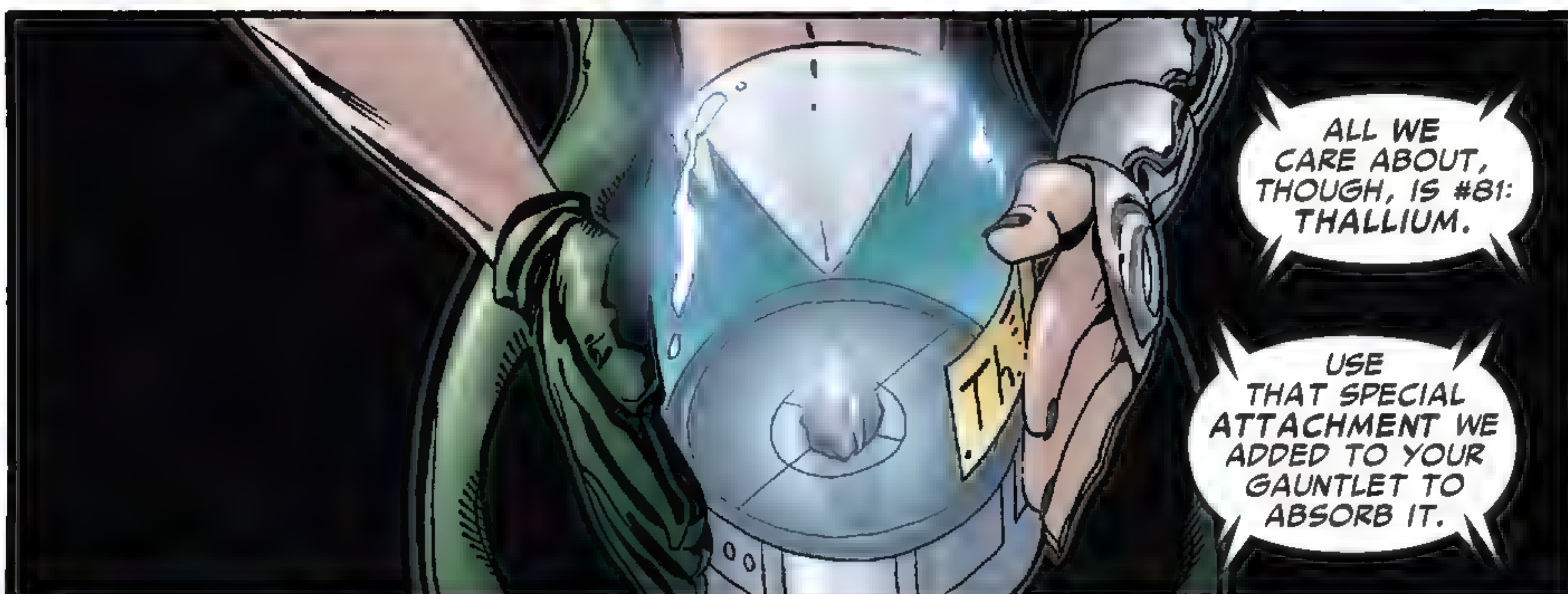


UH...
#Z1472. R-ROW
FOURTEEN--

FOUND
IT.

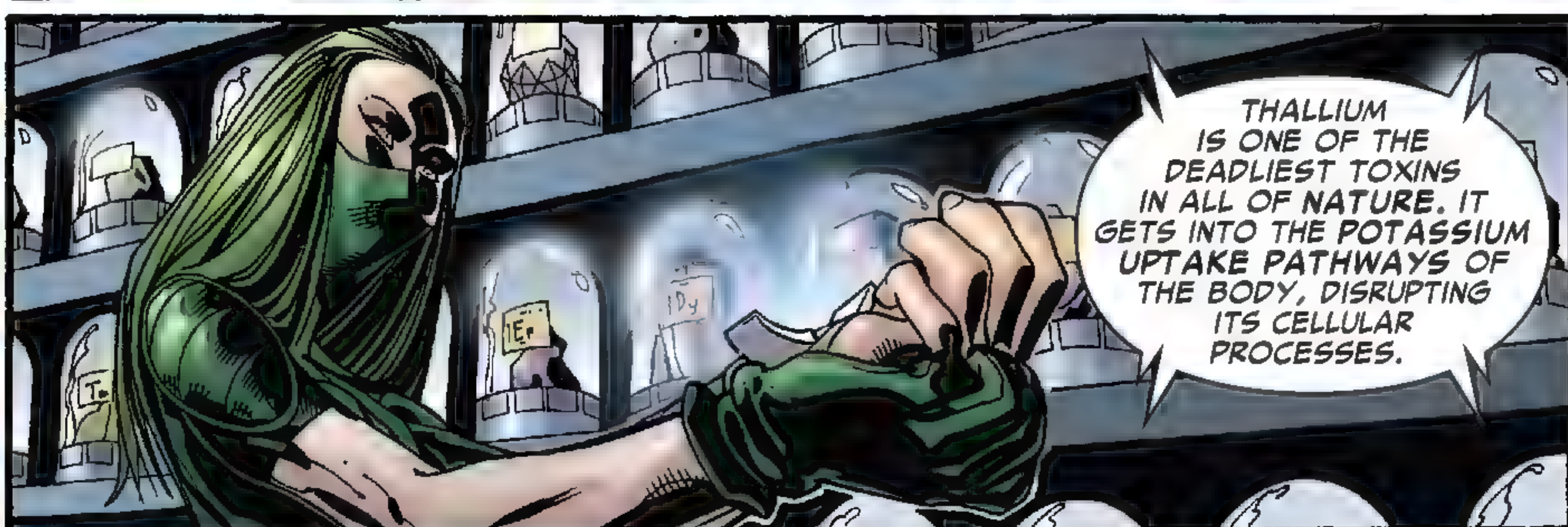


THIS IS ALL THAT'S
LEFT OF THE ELEMENTS
OF DOOM, ALCHEMICAL HOMUNCULI
CREATED BY SOME WHACKJOB
NAMED KHANDRUVITCH WHO USED
THEM TO EXTORT THE CITY BEFORE
HE WAS STOPPED BY THE
THUNDERBOLTS.



ALL WE
CARE ABOUT,
THOUGH, IS #81:
THALLIUM.

USE
THAT SPECIAL
ATTACHMENT WE
ADDED TO YOUR
GAUNTLET TO
ABSORB IT.

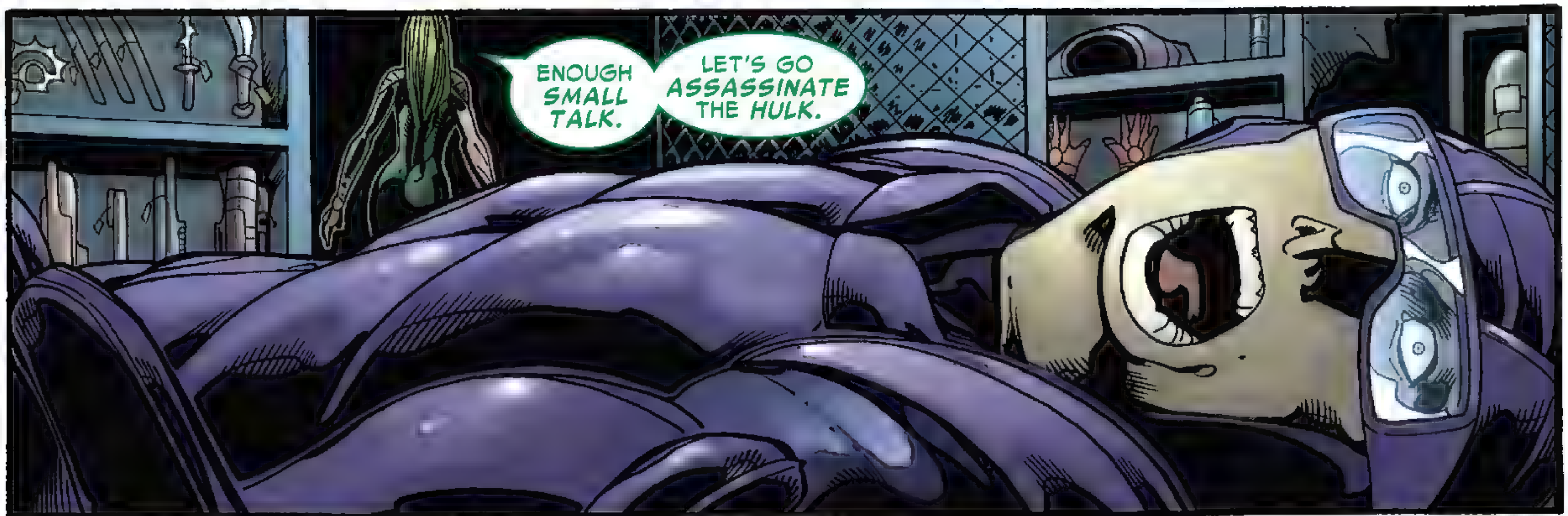
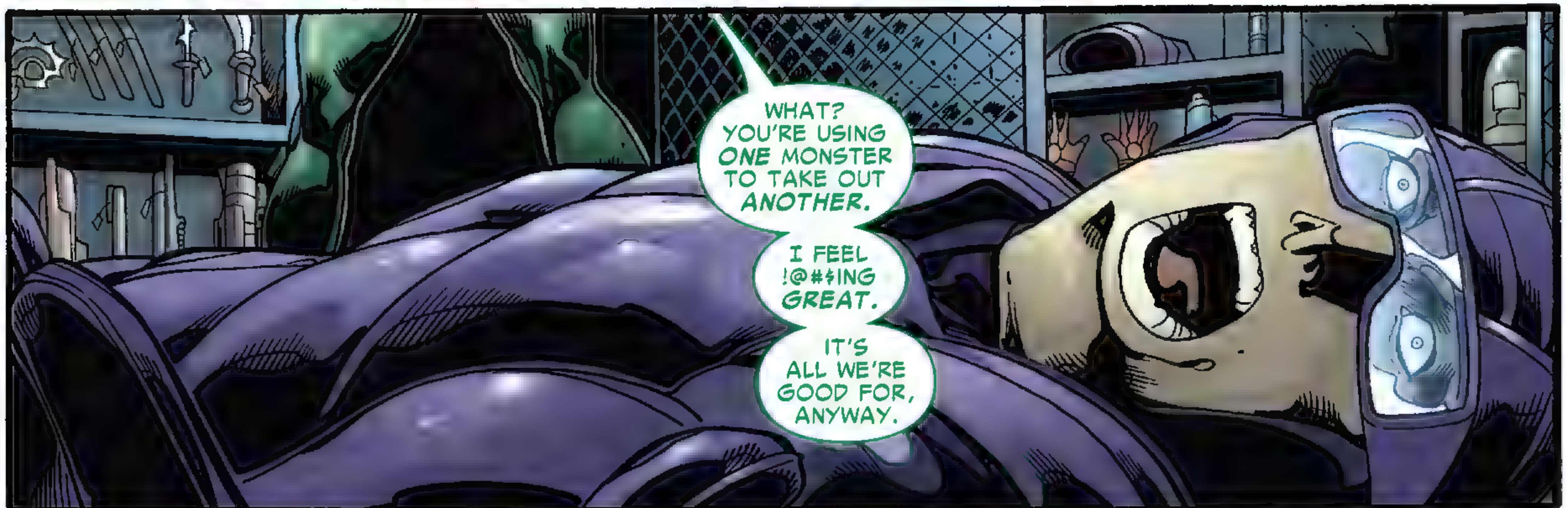
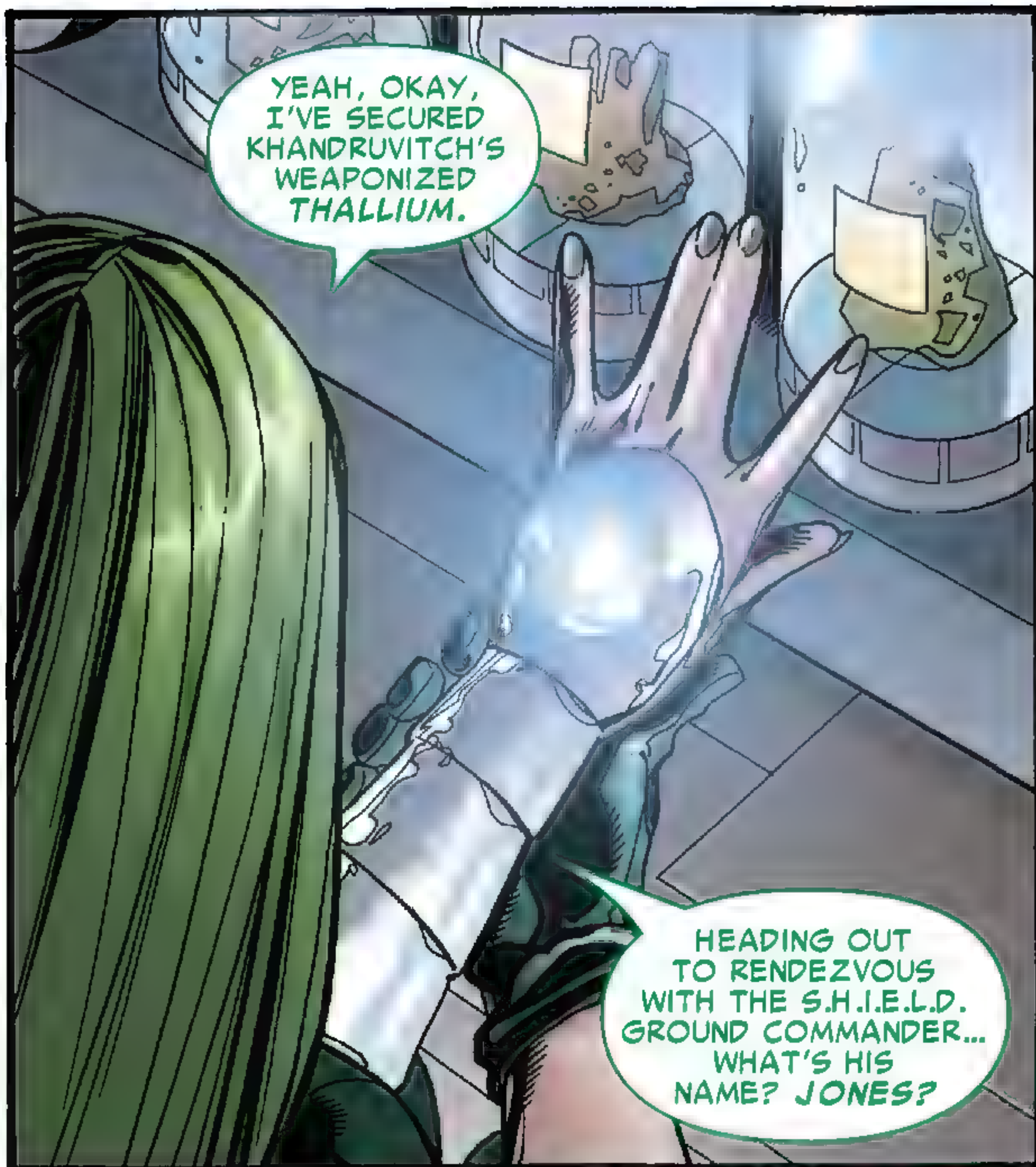


THALLIUM
IS ONE OF THE
DEADLIEST TOXINS
IN ALL OF NATURE. IT
GETS INTO THE POTASSIUM
UPTAKE PATHWAYS OF
THE BODY, DISRUPTING
ITS CELLULAR
PROCESSES.



"IN YOUR NEXT GO-AROUND
WITH THE HULK, YOU'LL RELEASE
A GAMMA-IRRADIATED THALLIUM
POISON THAT WILL MUTATE WITH THE
CREATURE...GETTING STRONGER
THE MORE HE FIGHTS IT.

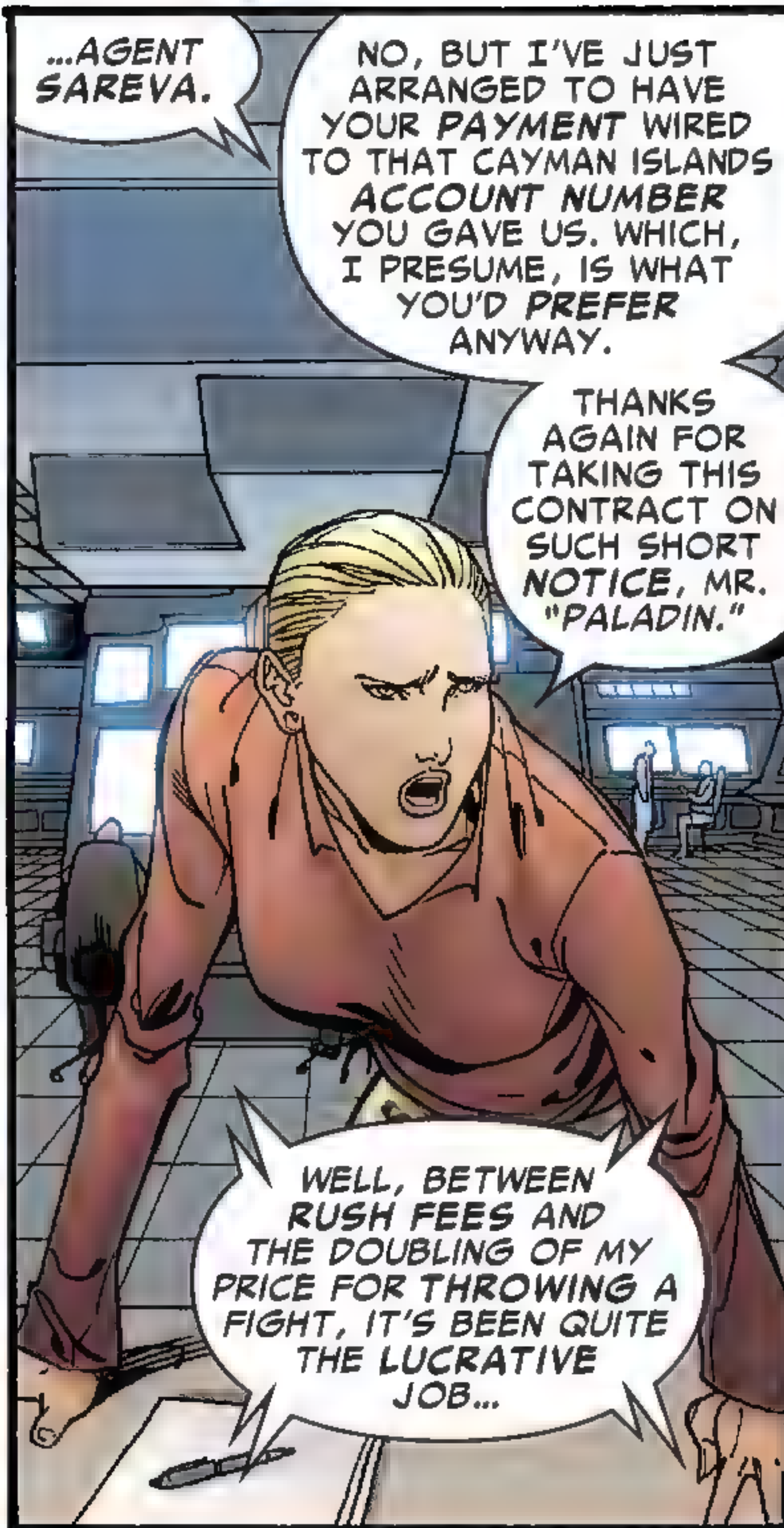
"YOU'LL
USE HIS OWN
STRENGTH TO
KILL HIM."





+GAAAAASP!!+
+WHEEZE!+

I TRUST
MY ACADEMY
AWARD IS IN
THE MAIL...



...AGENT
SAREVA.

NO, BUT I'VE JUST
ARRANGED TO HAVE
YOUR PAYMENT WIRED
TO THAT CAYMAN ISLANDS
ACCOUNT NUMBER
YOU GAVE US. WHICH,
I PRESUME, IS WHAT
YOU'D PREFER
ANYWAY.

THANKS
AGAIN FOR
TAKING THIS
CONTRACT ON
SUCH SHORT
NOTICE, MR.
"PALADIN."

WELL, BETWEEN
RUSH FEES AND
THE DOUBLING OF MY
PRICE FOR THROWING A
FIGHT, IT'S BEEN QUITE
THE LUCRATIVE
JOB...

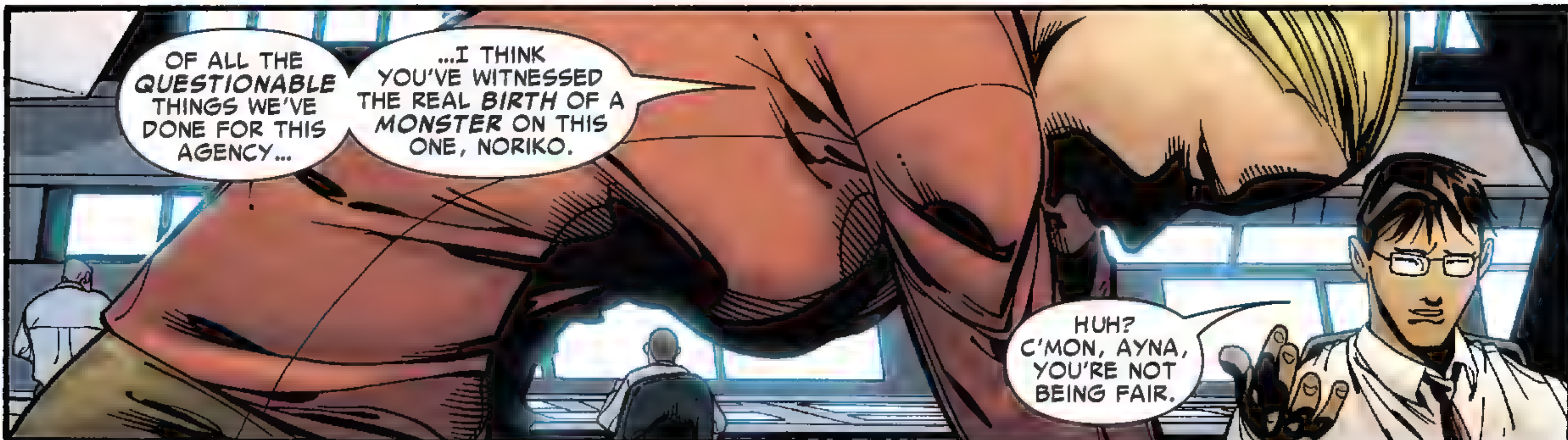


...BUT +GRUNT!+
I STILL FEEL LIKE I
UNDERCHARGED.

YOUR
EGGHEADS WERE
RIGHT--WITH MY
ENHANCED STRENGTH,
I WAS ABLE TO
SURVIVE YOUR GIRL'S
STRONGEST STING--
BUT BARELY.

FOR A SKINNY
CHICK SHE PACKS
QUITE A WALLOP. I HAVE
YET ANOTHER REASON
TO BE GLAD I'M NOT
THE HULK.

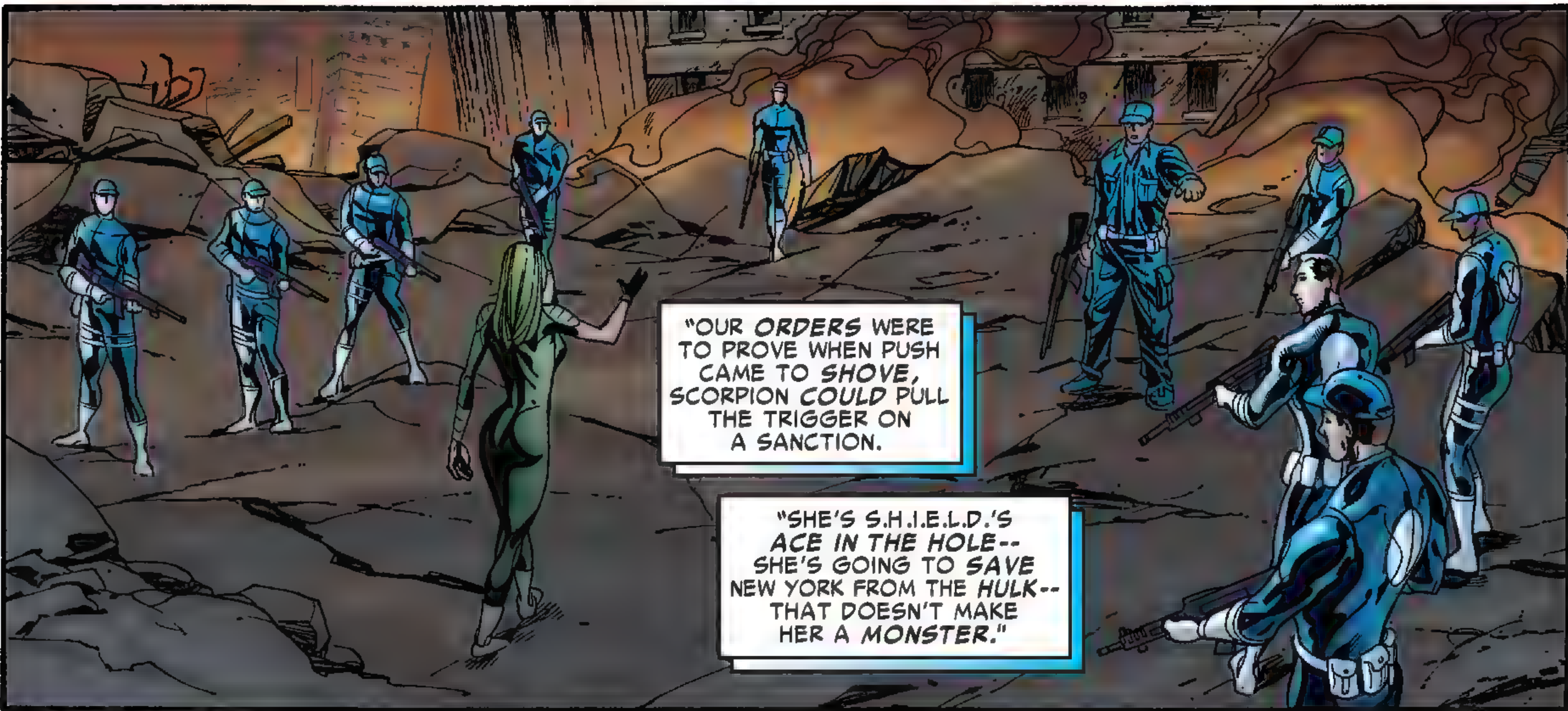
PALADIN
SIGNING
OFF.



OF ALL THE
QUESTIONABLE
THINGS WE'VE
DONE FOR THIS
AGENCY...

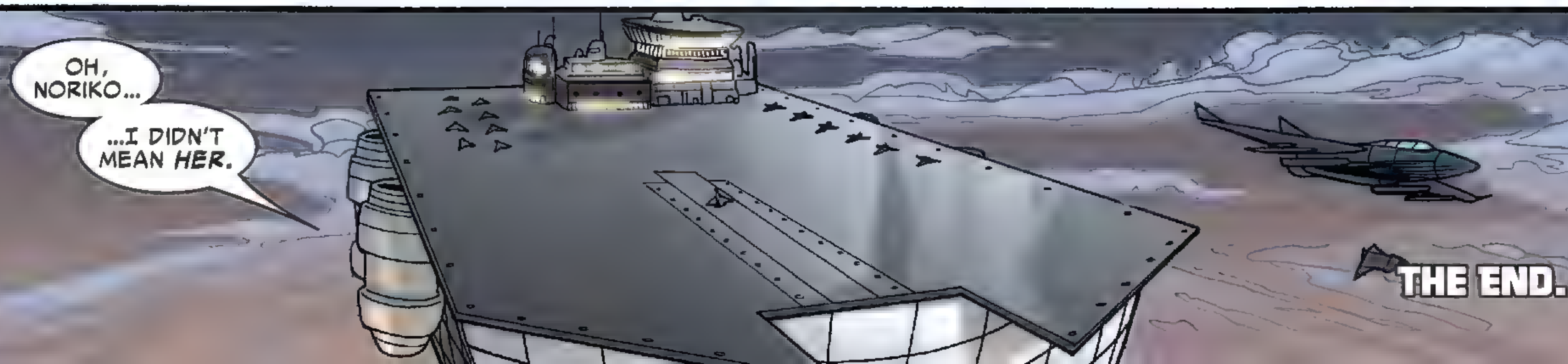
...I THINK
YOU'VE WITNESSED
THE REAL BIRTH OF A
MONSTER ON THIS
ONE, NORIKO.

HUH?
C'MON, AYNA,
YOU'RE NOT
BEING FAIR.



"OUR ORDERS WERE
TO PROVE WHEN PUSH
CAME TO SHOVE,
SCORPION COULD PULL
THE TRIGGER ON
A SANCTION.

"SHE'S S.H.I.E.L.D.'S
ACE IN THE HOLE--
SHE'S GOING TO SAVE
NEW YORK FROM THE HULK--
THAT DOESN'T MAKE
HER A MONSTER."



OH,
NORIKO...

...I DIDN'T
MEAN HER.

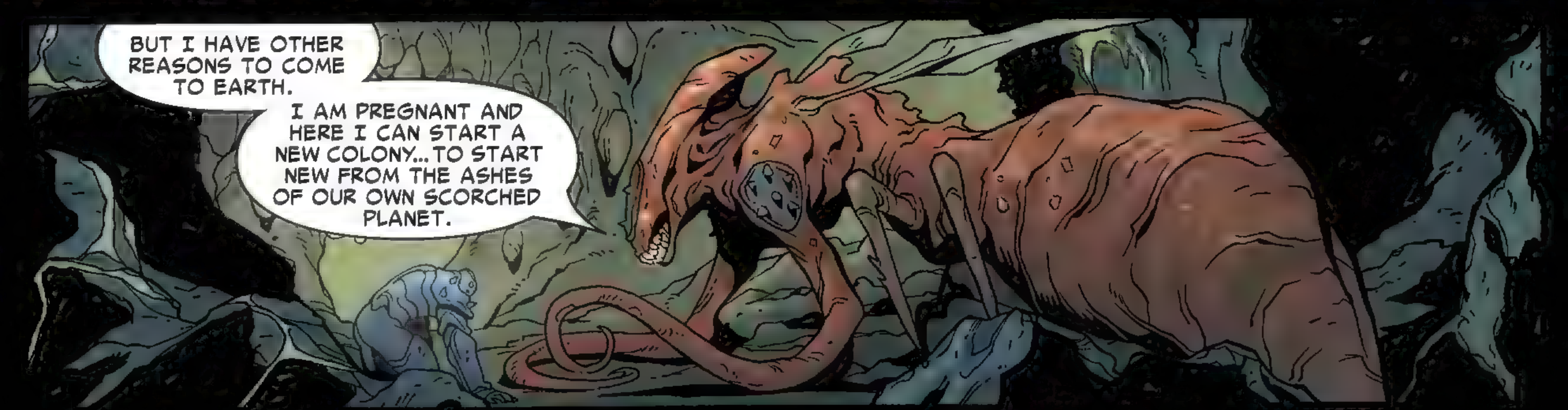
THE END.



**NEW YORK CITY.
WORLD WAR HULK D-DAY +1.**

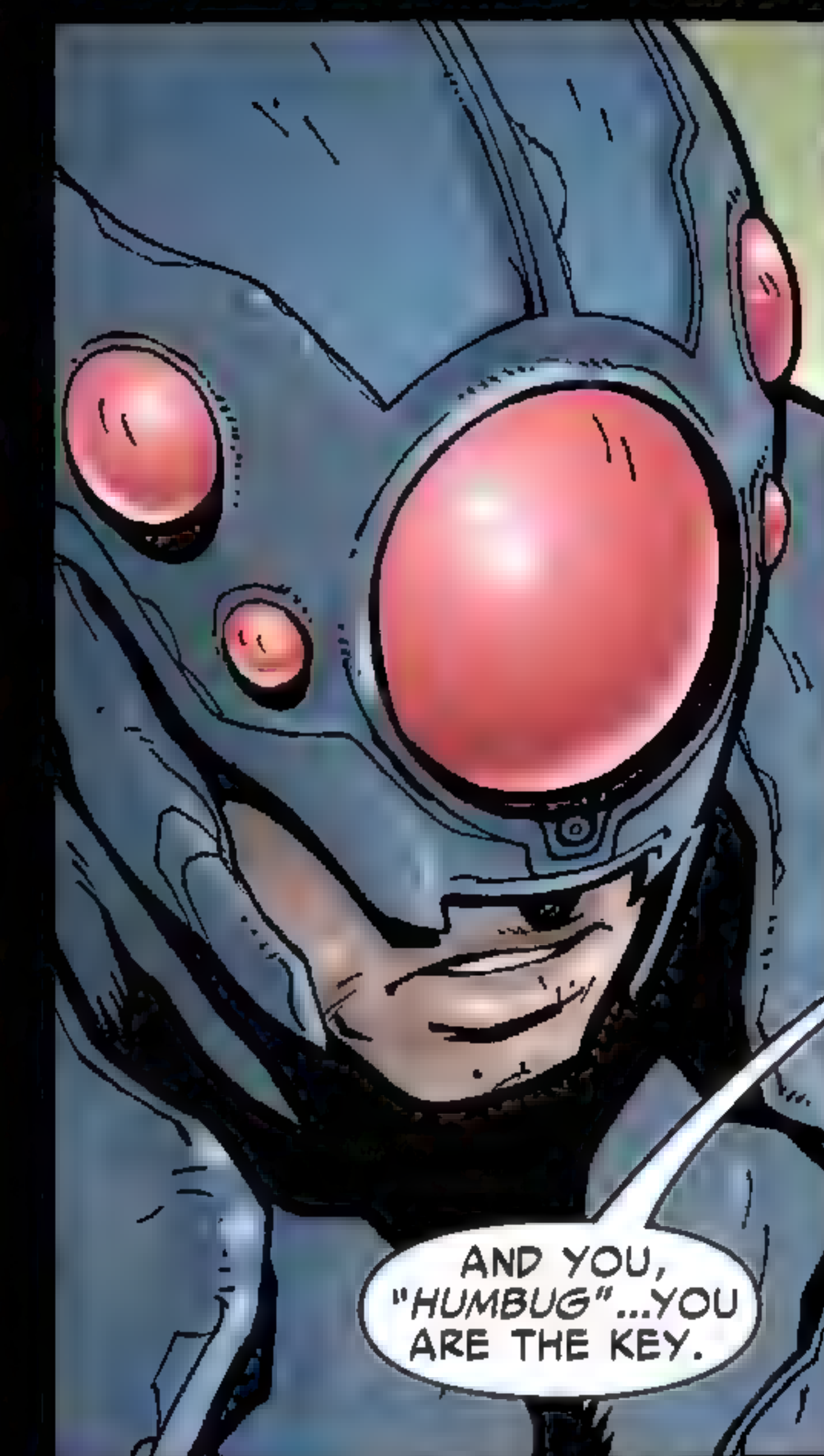


WE HAVE
COME FAR, WE FOLLOW
THE ONE CALLED THE
HULK, ON A MISSION OF
VENGEANCE.



BUT I HAVE OTHER
REASONS TO COME
TO EARTH.

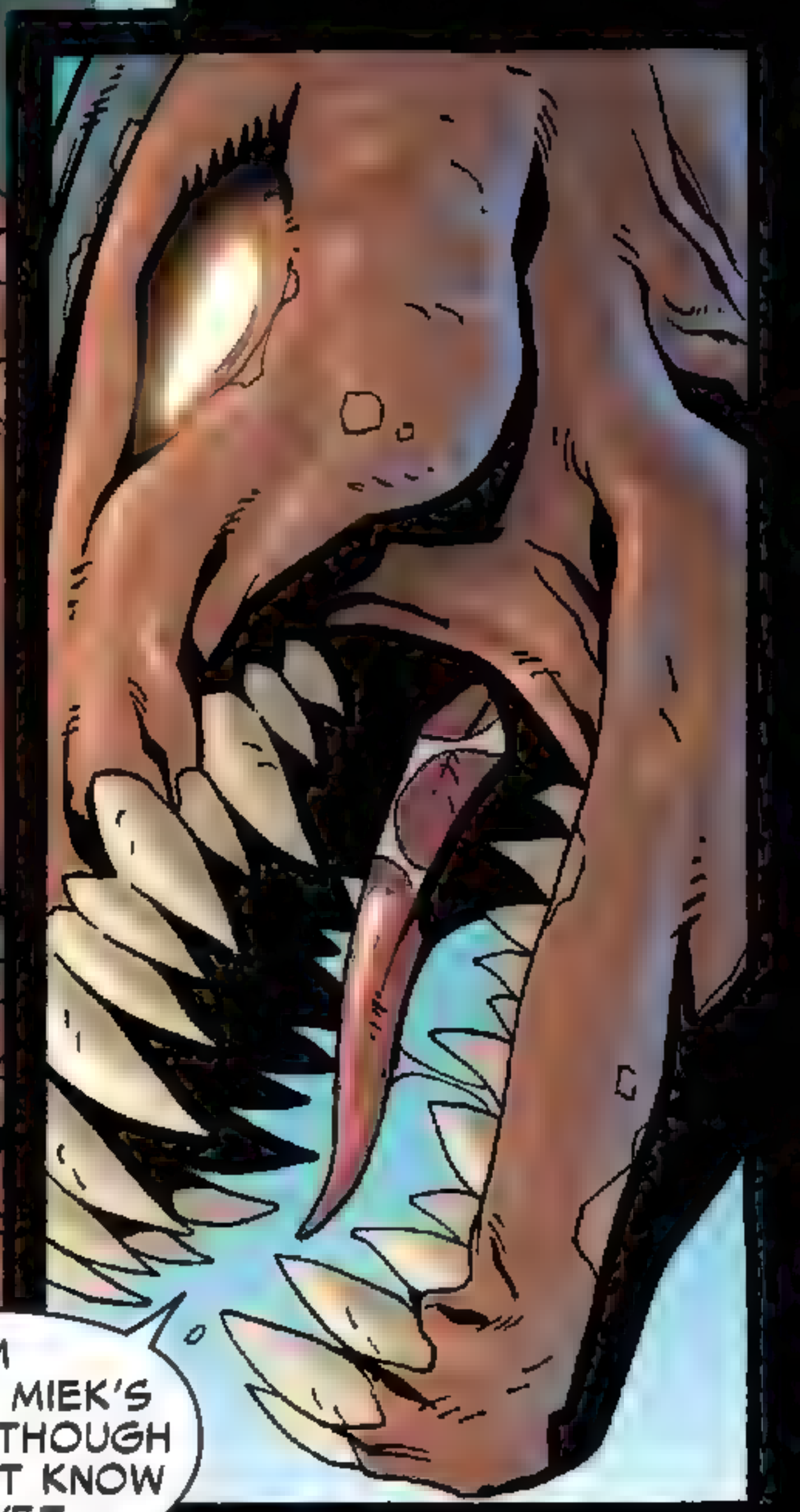
I AM PREGNANT AND
HERE I CAN START A
NEW COLONY... TO START
NEW FROM THE ASHES
OF OUR OWN SCORCHED
PLANET.



AND YOU,
"HUMBUG"... YOU
ARE THE KEY.



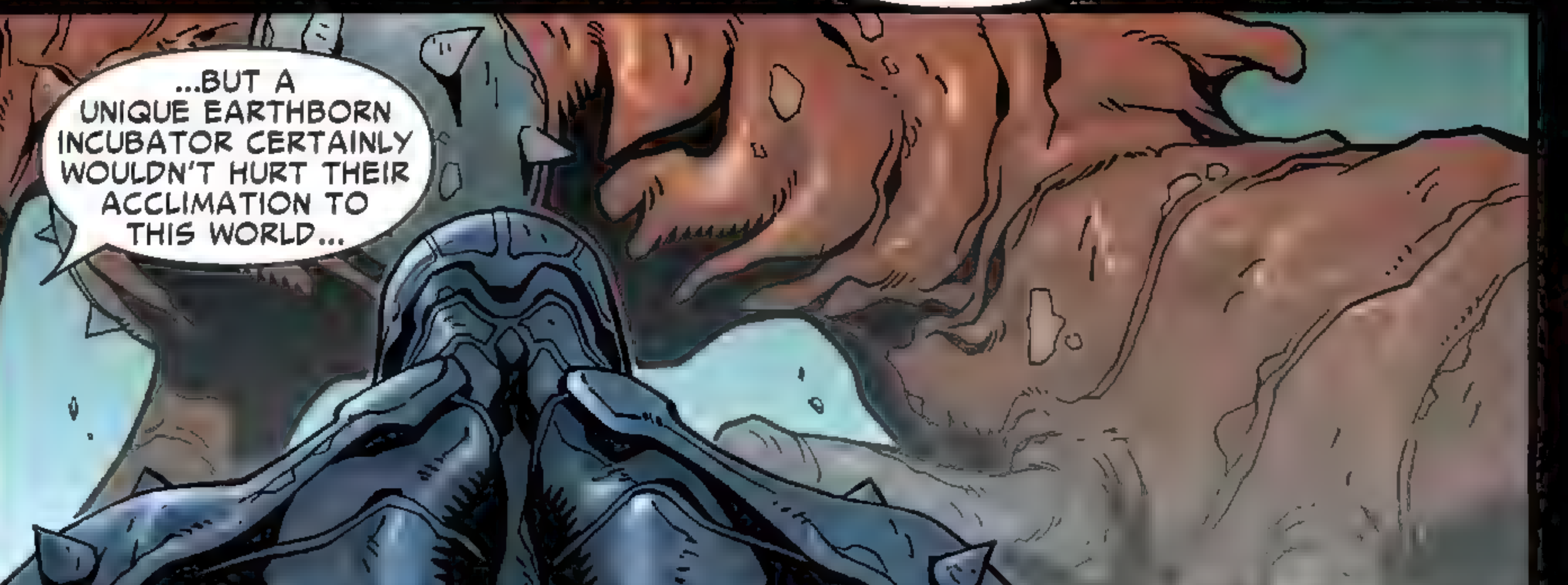
I CAN PRODUCE
OFFSPRING WITH
OTHER RACES.



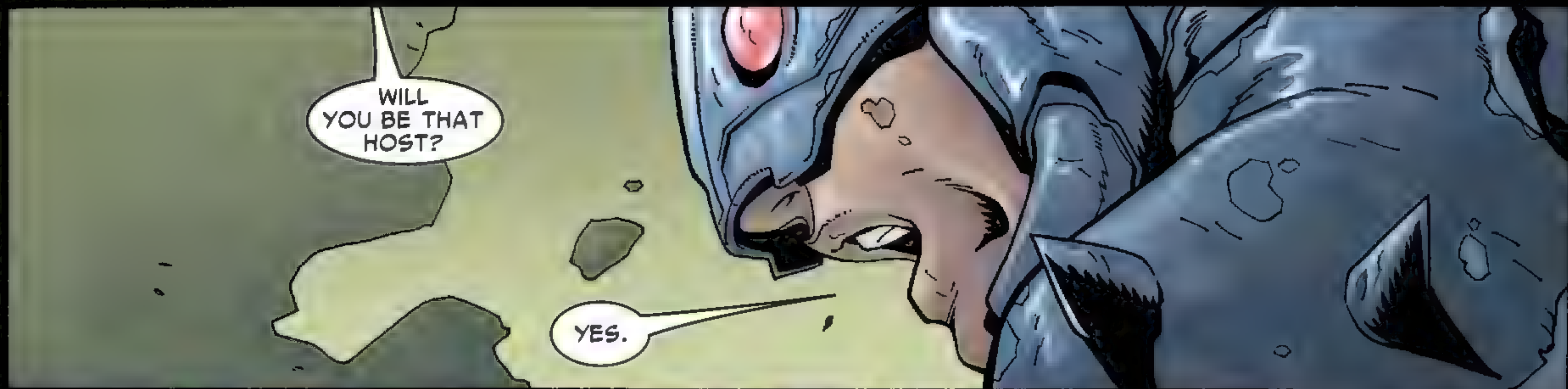
I AM
CARRYING MIEK'S
CHILDREN, THOUGH
HE DOESN'T KNOW
THAT YET.

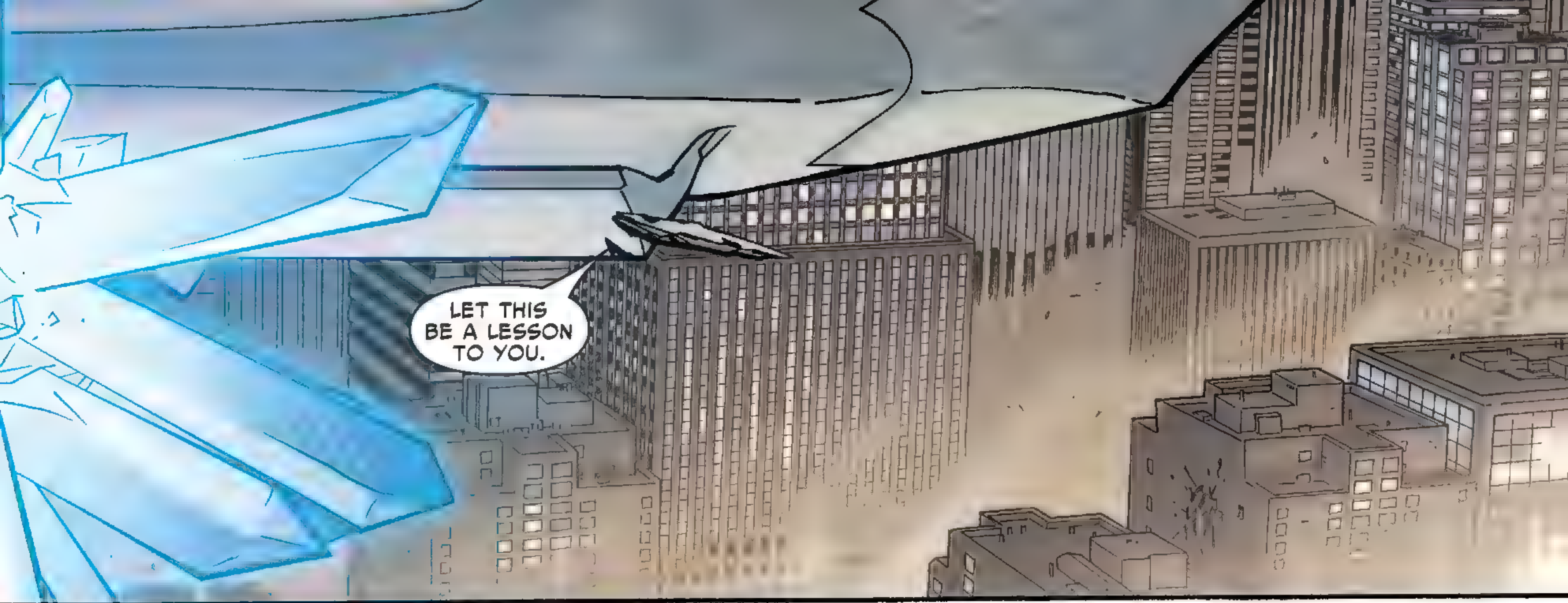


MY EGGS
DON'T REQUIRE
A HOST IN ORDER
TO HATCH...

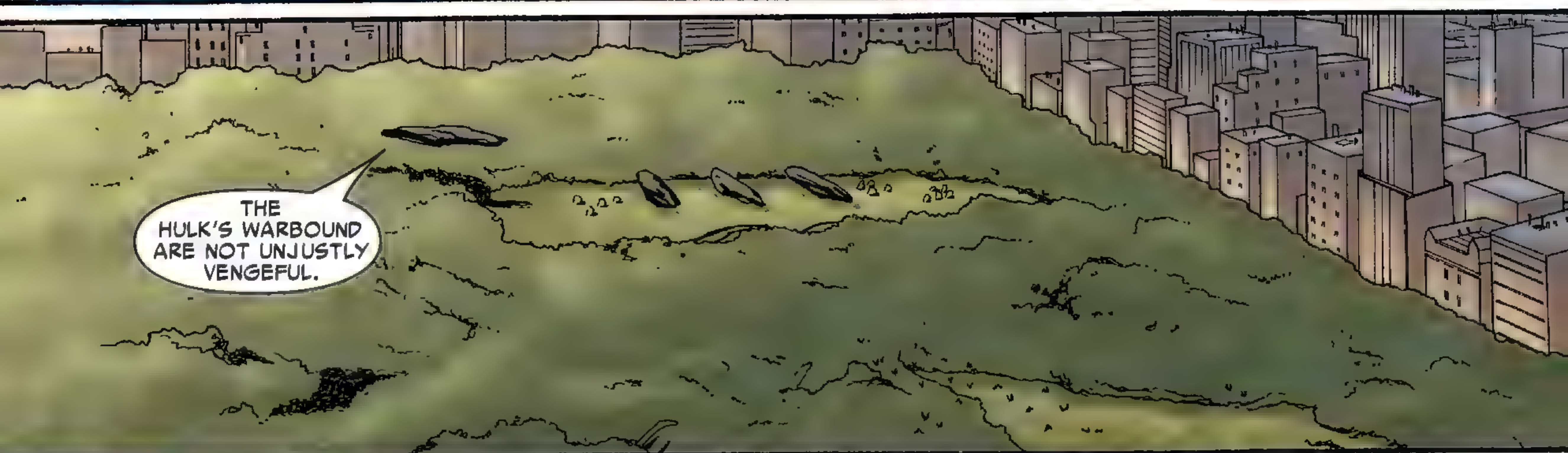


...BUT A
UNIQUE EARTHBO
INCUBATOR CERTAINLY
WOULDN'T HURT THEIR
ACCLIMATION TO
THIS WORLD...

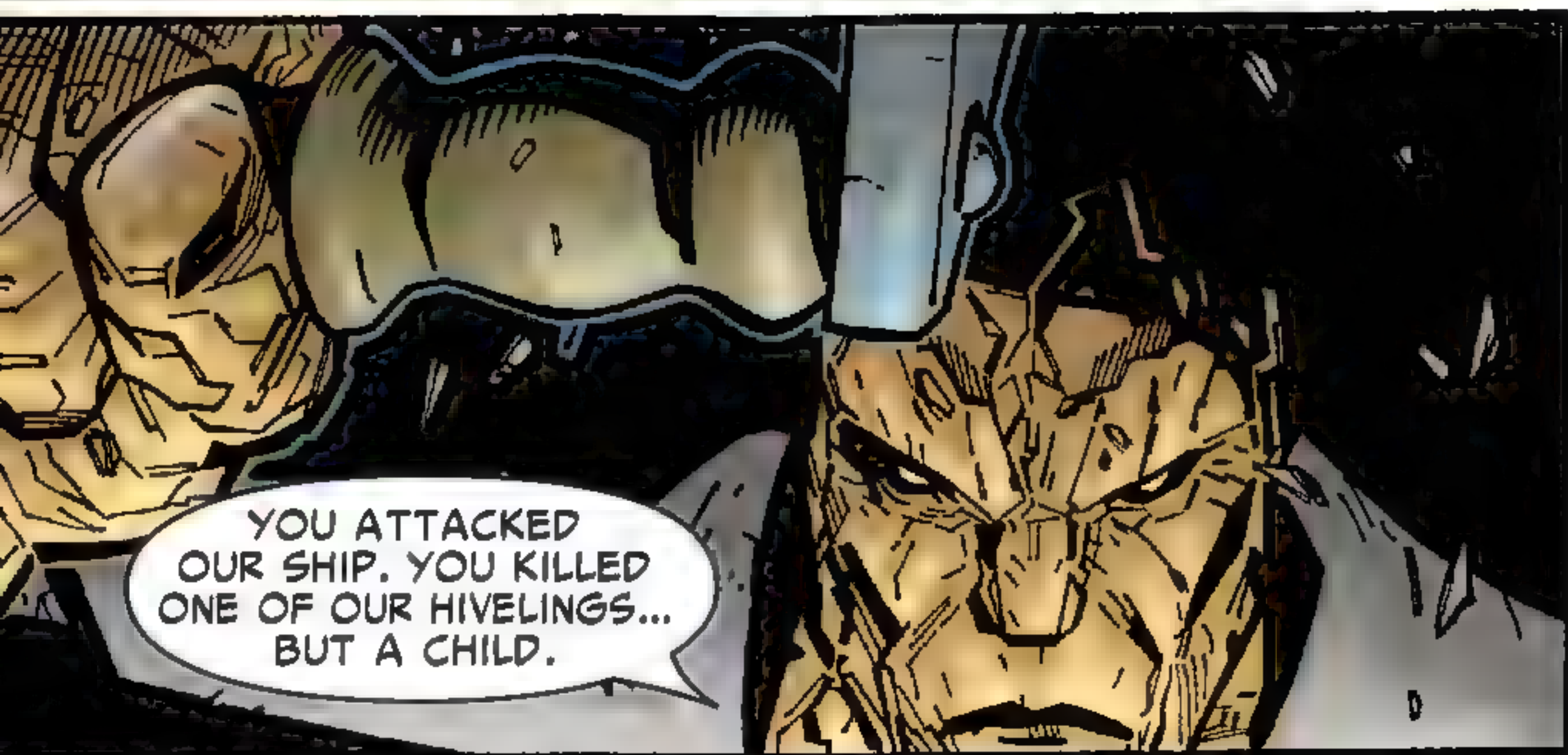




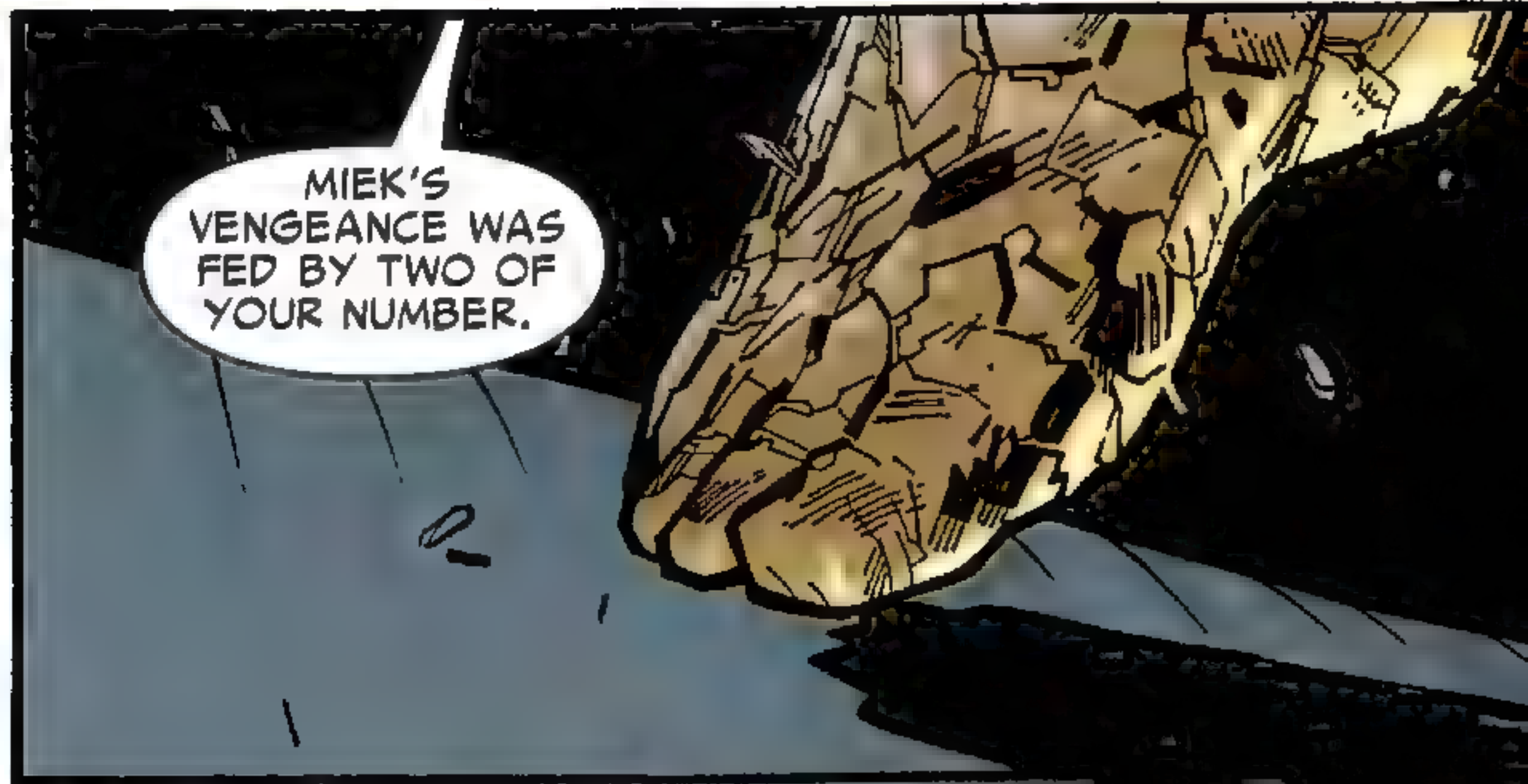
LET THIS
BE A LESSON
TO YOU.



THE
HULK'S WARBOUND
ARE NOT UNJUSTLY
VENGEFUL.



YOU ATTACKED
OUR SHIP. YOU KILLED
ONE OF OUR HIVEINGS...
BUT A CHILD.

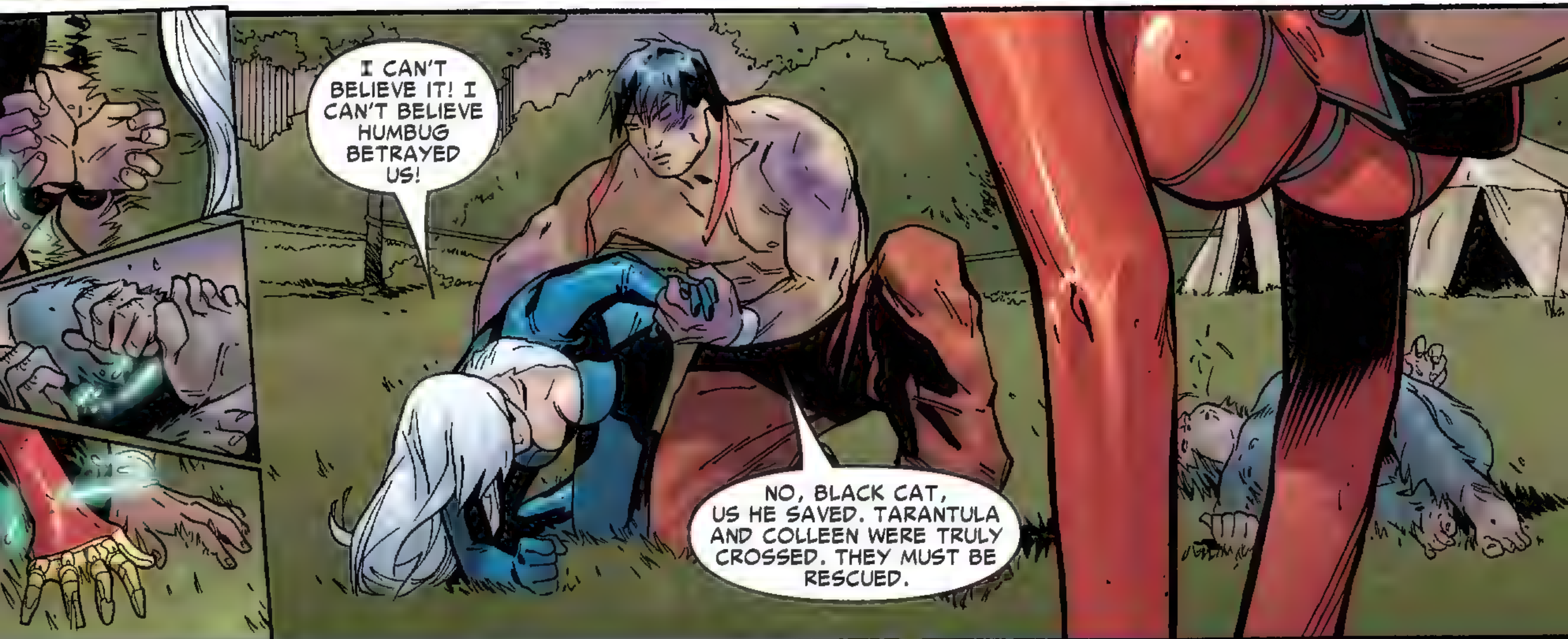


MIEK'S
VENGEANCE WAS
FED BY TWO OF
YOUR NUMBER.



BUT WE
LET THE REST OF
YOU GO FREE.

WHUMP



**THE CATACOMBS.
LOCATION
UNKNOWN.**

YOU PLOTTED *KIK*
AGAINST THE HIVE. YOU
HAVE MURDERED A
HIVELING AND HID
IN ITS BLOOD.

I SWORE
TO PROTECT THE
HIVELINGS. THEY
MADE ME
THEIR KING.

AND I MUST *KIK*
BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
YOUR PUNISHMENT.

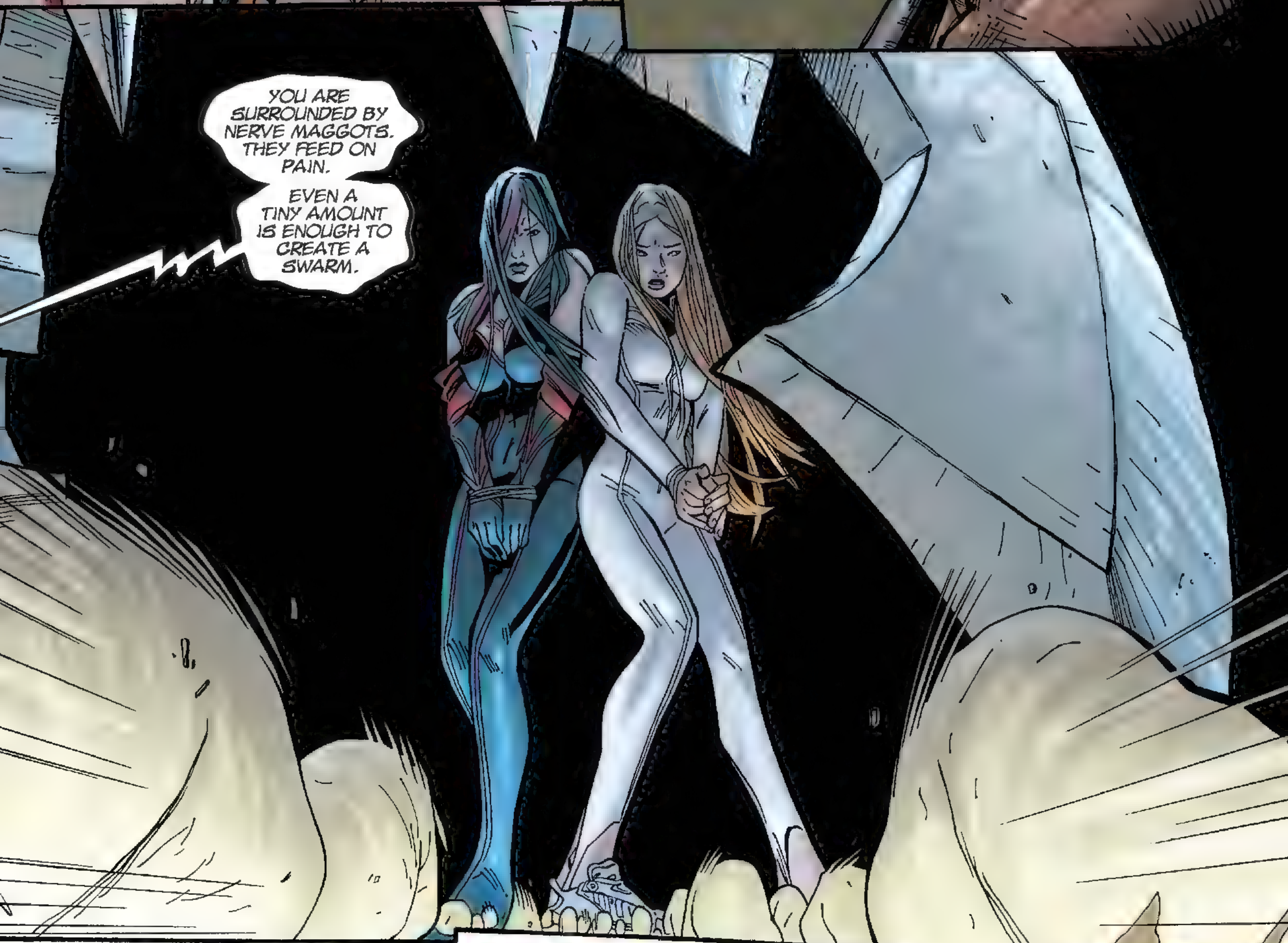
A-ARE
YOU OKAY,
TARANTULA...

YEAH...IT
STUNG A LITTLE BIT,
BUT I'M NOT EVEN
BLEEDING.



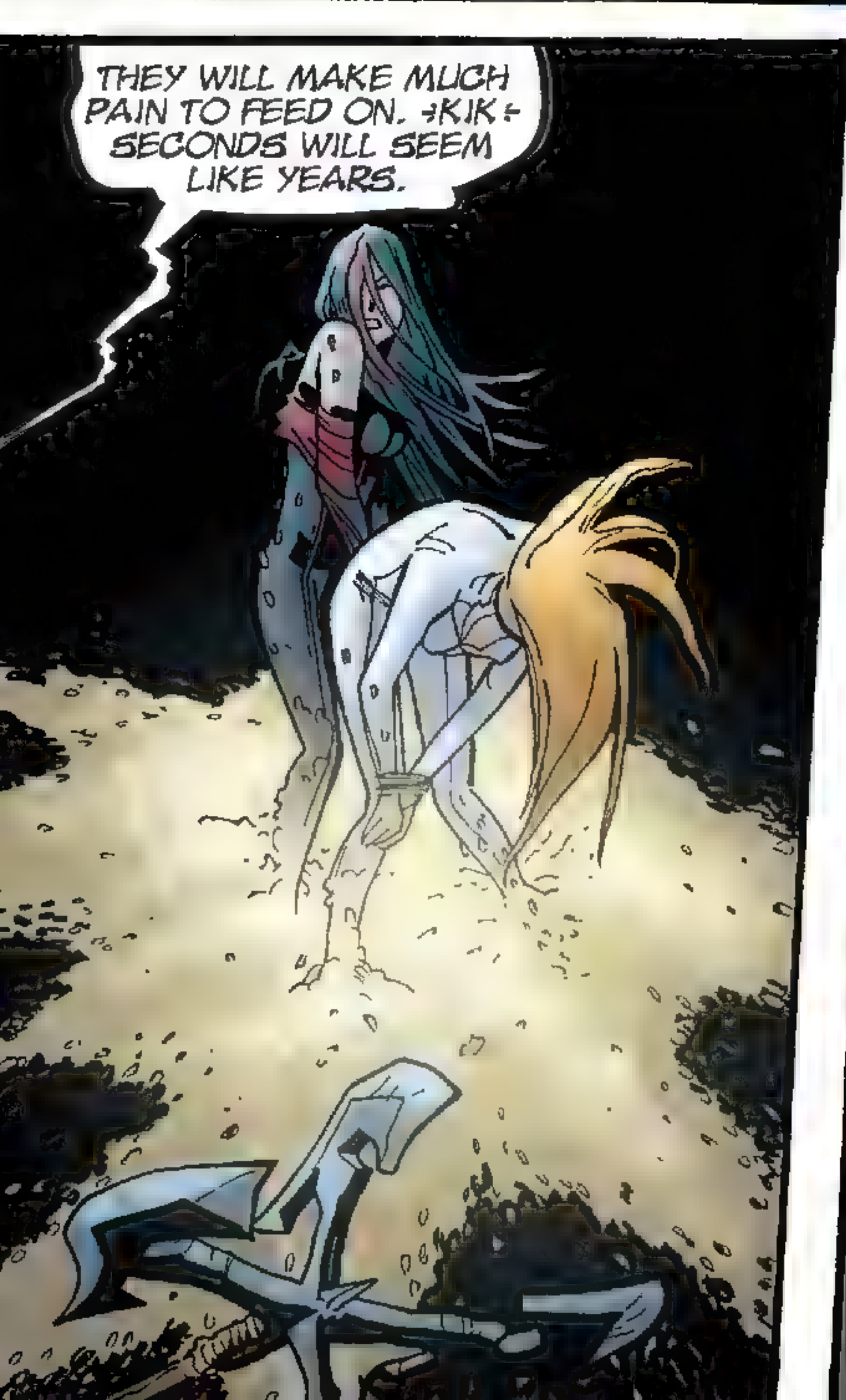
IS
THAT
IT?

NO.

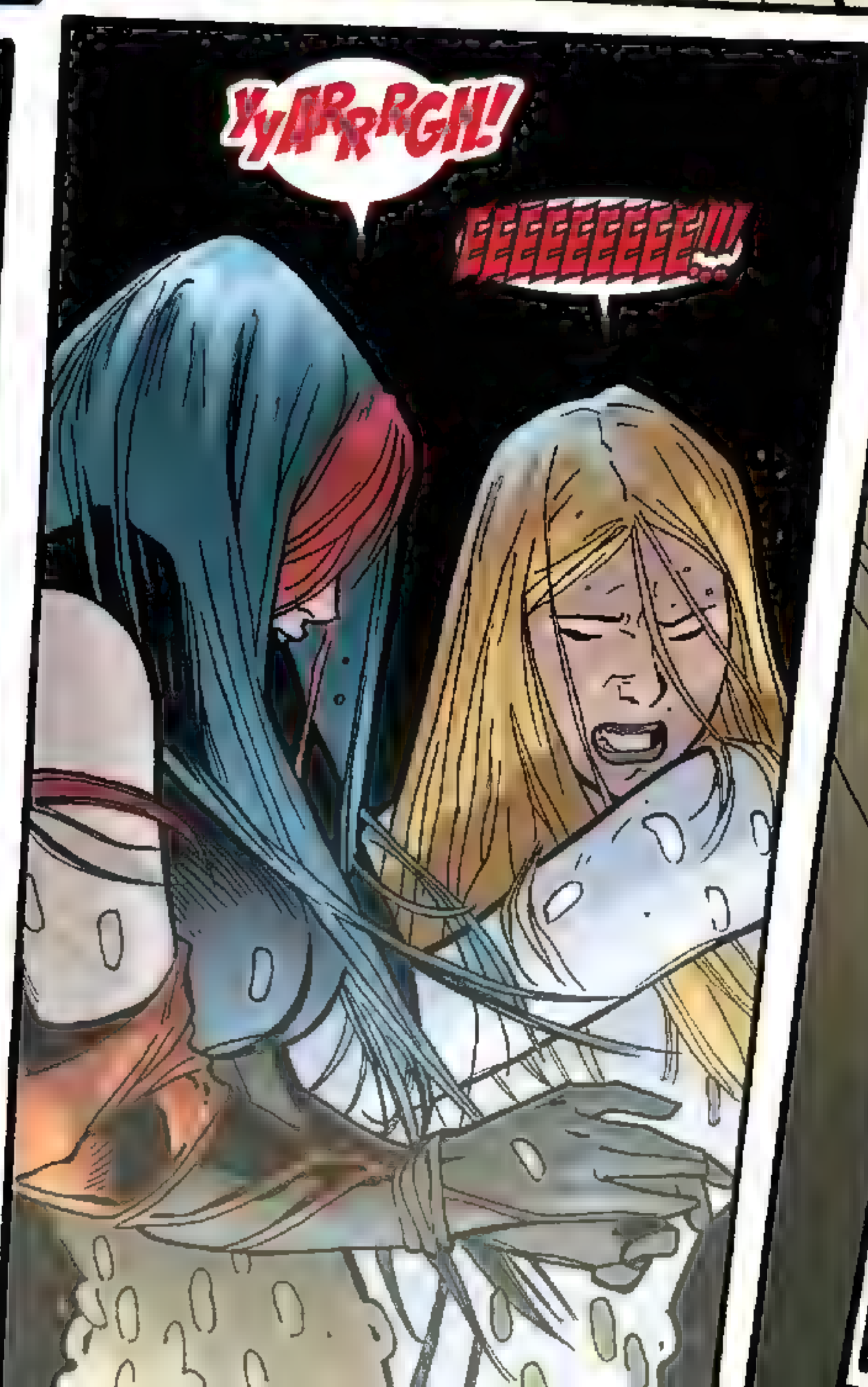


YOU ARE
SURROUNDED BY
NERVE MAGGOTS.
THEY FEED ON
PAIN.

EVEN A
TINY AMOUNT
IS ENOUGH TO
CREATE A
SWARM.

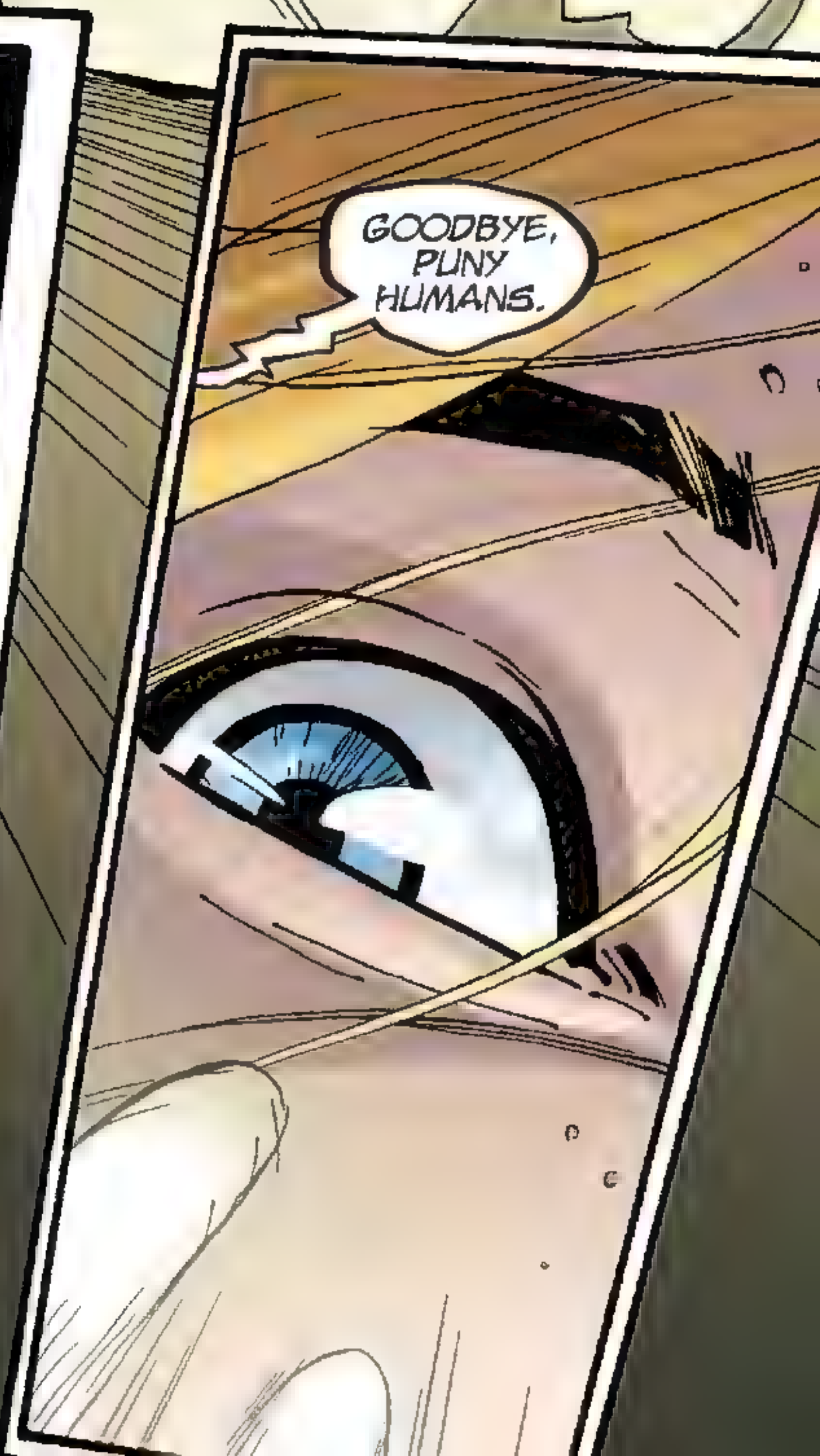


THEY WILL MAKE MUCH
PAIN TO FEED ON. ♪KIK♪
SECONDS WILL SEEM
LIKE YEARS.



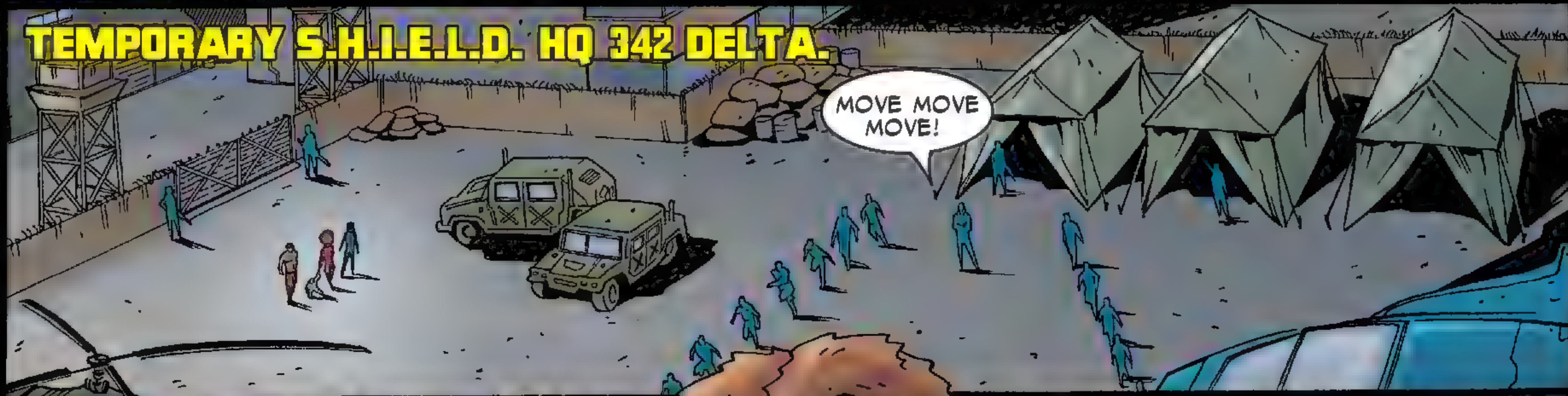
YyARRRGH!!

EEEEEEEEEE!!!



GOODBYE,
PUNY
HUMANS.

TEMPORARY S.H.I.E.L.D. HQ 342 DELTA.



MOVE MOVE MOVE!



GENERAL ROSS HAS BEEN DEFEATED. INITIATE PLAN D!

THEY'RE ON RED ALERT, MISTY. WHO DO WE ASK ABOUT THE "CATACOMBS."



THE MAN AT THE TOP.



AH, THE "HEROES FOR HIRE." IF YOU'RE TRYING TO GET PAID FOR AIDING IN THE EVACUATION, YOU PICKED A REALLY BAD TIME.

THAT'S NOT IT, KHANATA.

TWO OF OUR TEAMMATES WERE TAKEN PRISONER BY THE HULK'S ALIEN "WARBOUND." WE BELIEVE THEY WERE TAKEN TO A LAND BASE THEY'RE CALLING THE "CATACOMBS."



WE'RE AWARE OF THE LAND INVASION, MS. KNIGHT, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU WE'RE DEVELOPING A PLAN TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION...

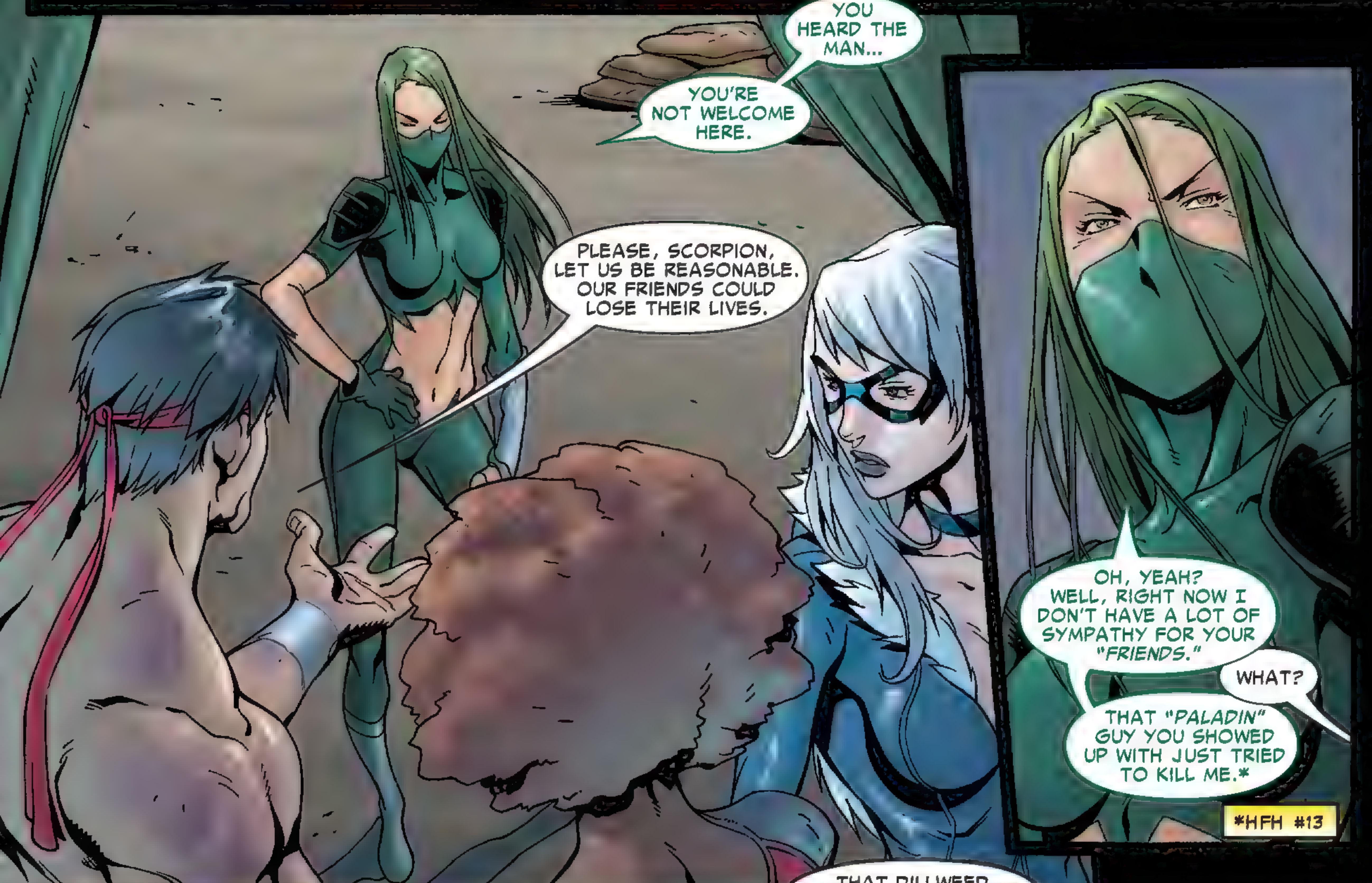
OUR FRIENDS ARE CAPTIVES THERE. TELL US WHERE IT IS!



ABSOLUTELY NOT. THAT INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

GET TONY STARK ON THE PHONE. RIGHT NOW. WE'LL SEE WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT YOU LEAVING COLLEEN WING TO DIE IN AN ALIEN PRISON!

THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE HULK HAS TAKEN TONY STARK AS A P.O.W.



YOU HEARD THE MAN...

YOU'RE NOT WELCOME HERE.

PLEASE, SCORPION, LET US BE REASONABLE. OUR FRIENDS COULD LOSE THEIR LIVES.

OH, YEAH? WELL, RIGHT NOW I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF SYMPATHY FOR YOUR "FRIENDS."

WHAT?

THAT "PALADIN" GUY YOU SHOWED UP WITH JUST TRIED TO KILL ME.*

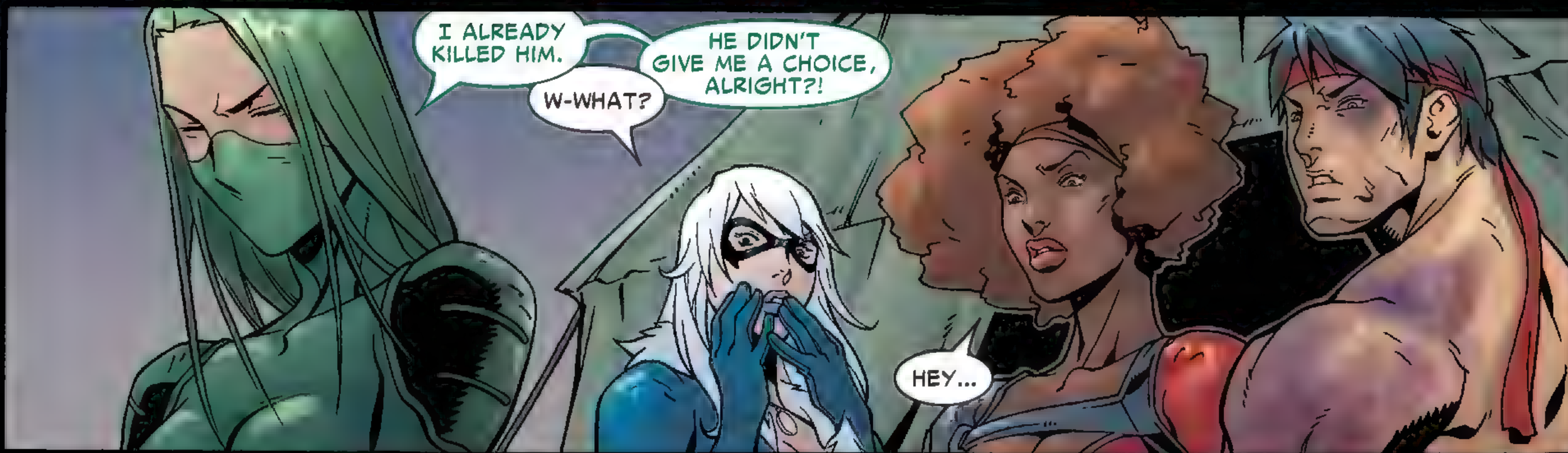
*HFH #13



THAT DILLWEED ISN'T OUR FRIEND! HE'S JUST A MERCENARY.

YEAH, GIVE US THE INTEL ON THE CATACOMBS AND WE'LL TAKE HIM OUT FOR YOU OURSELVES.

DON'T BOTHER...

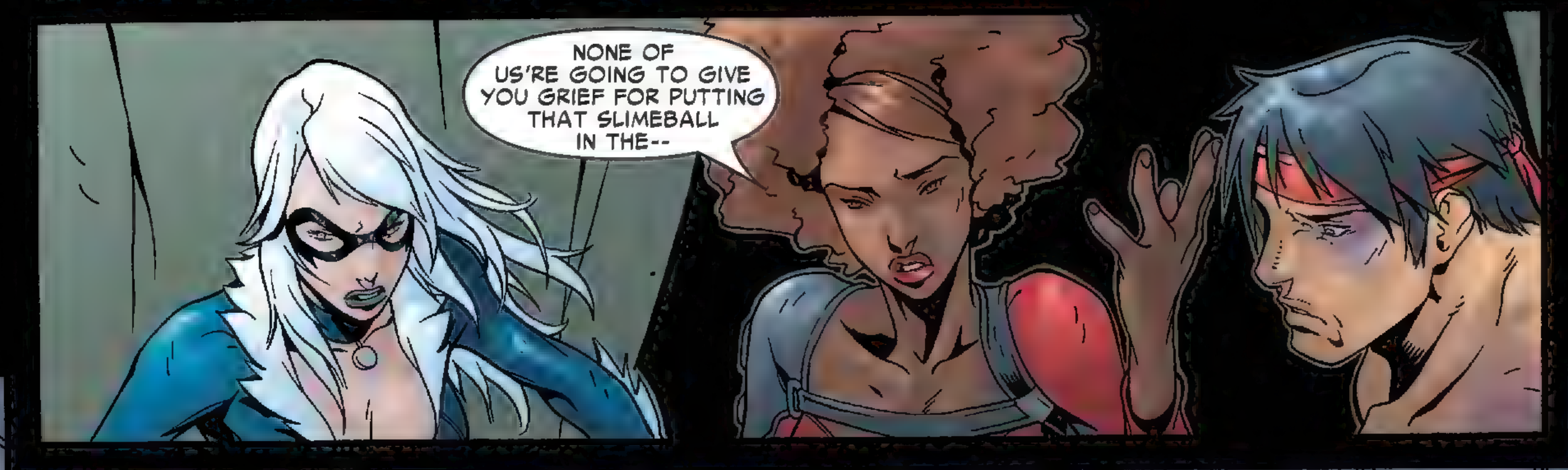
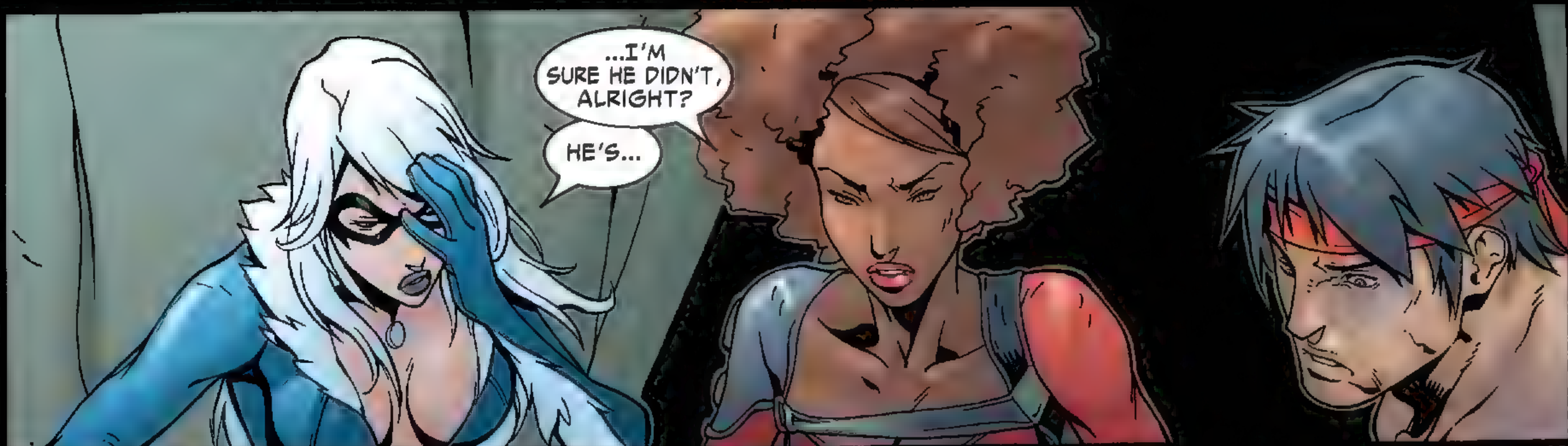


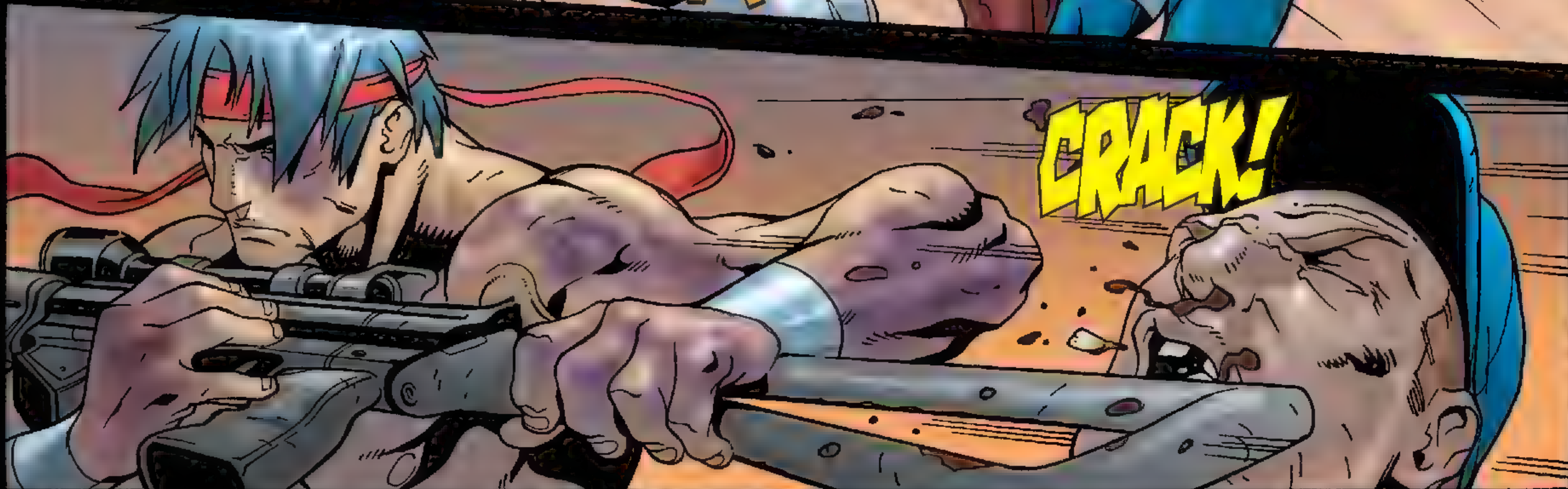
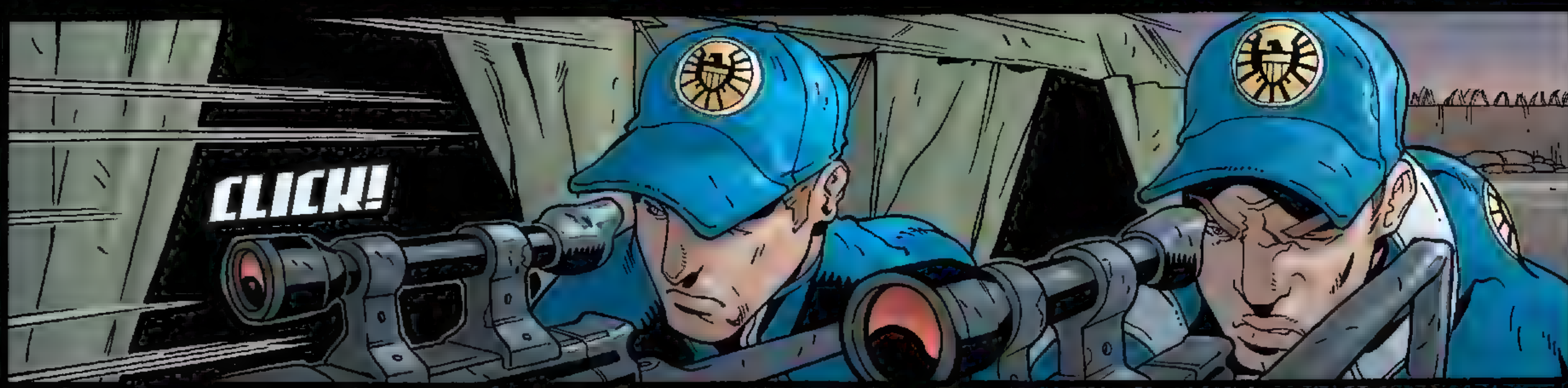
I ALREADY KILLED HIM.

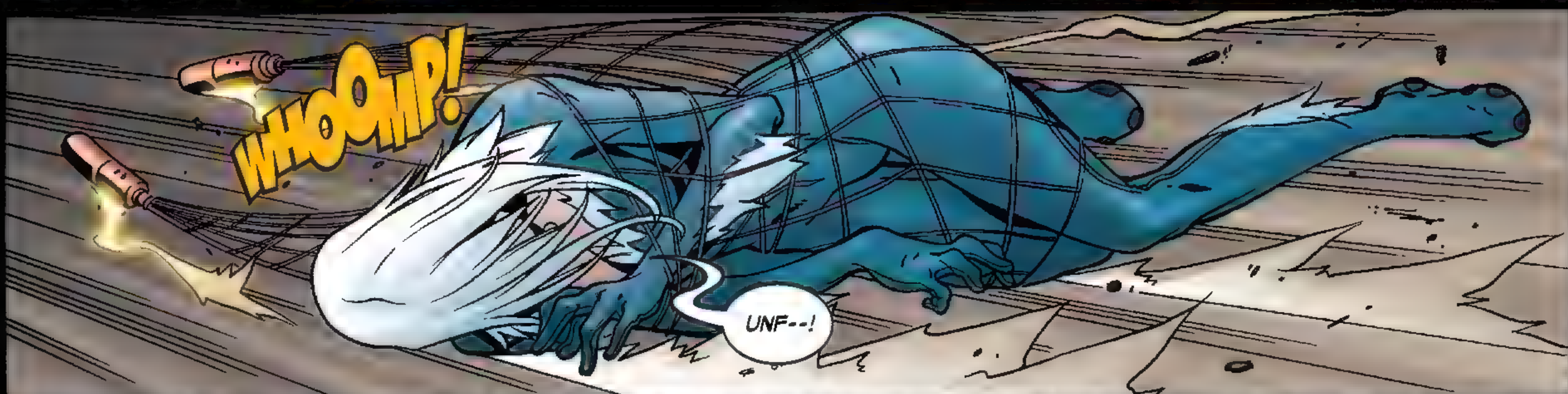
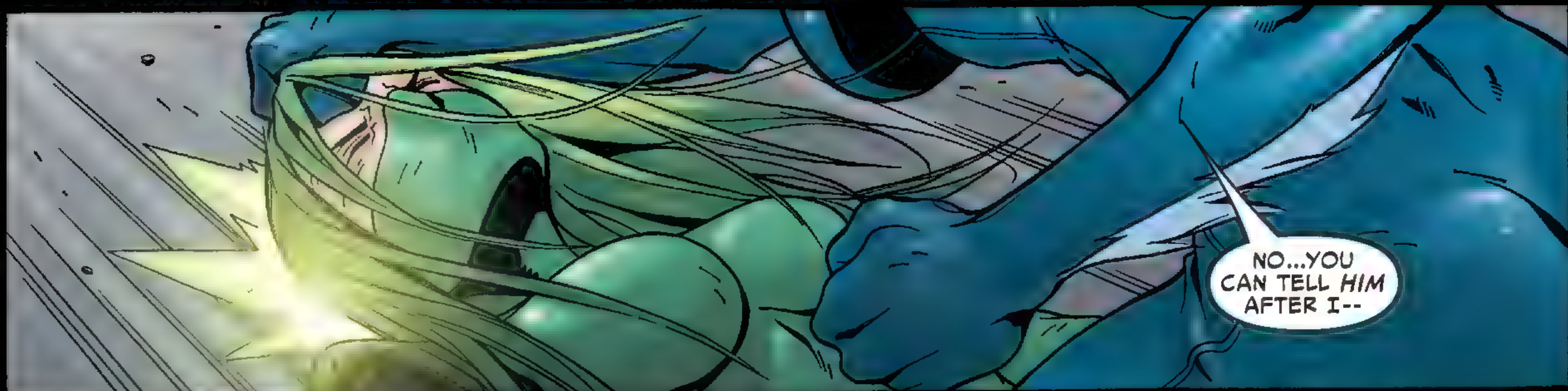
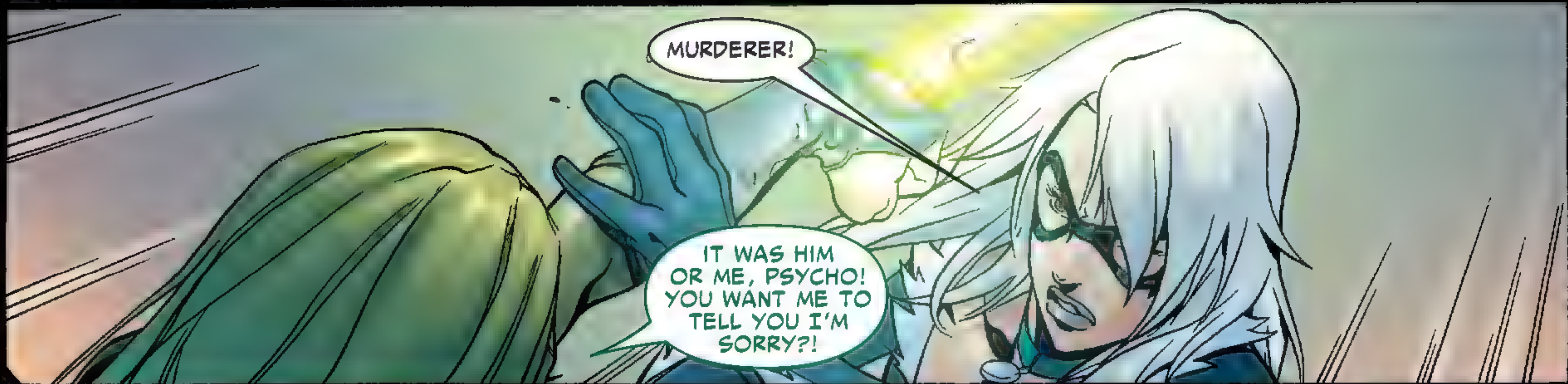
W-WHAT?

HE DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHOICE, ALRIGHT?!

HEY...



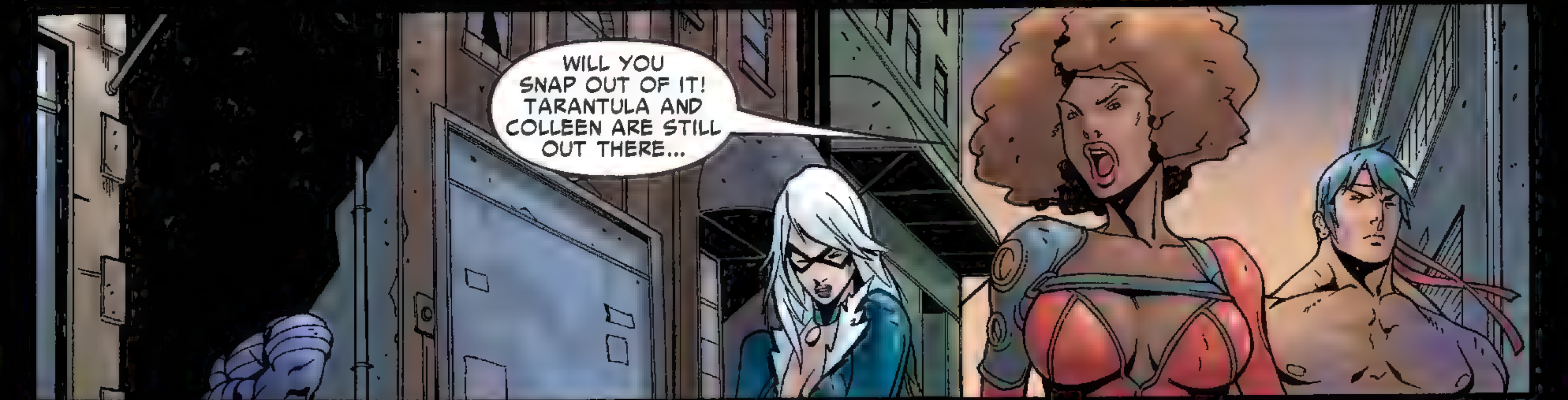






DAMMIT,
FELICIA! THAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN THE ONLY
CHANCE WE HAD--

HE...HE
SHOULD HAVE
COME WITH US...
I ASKED HIM TO
COME WITH
US.



WILL YOU
SNAP OUT OF IT!
TARANTULA AND
COLLEEN ARE STILL
OUT THERE...

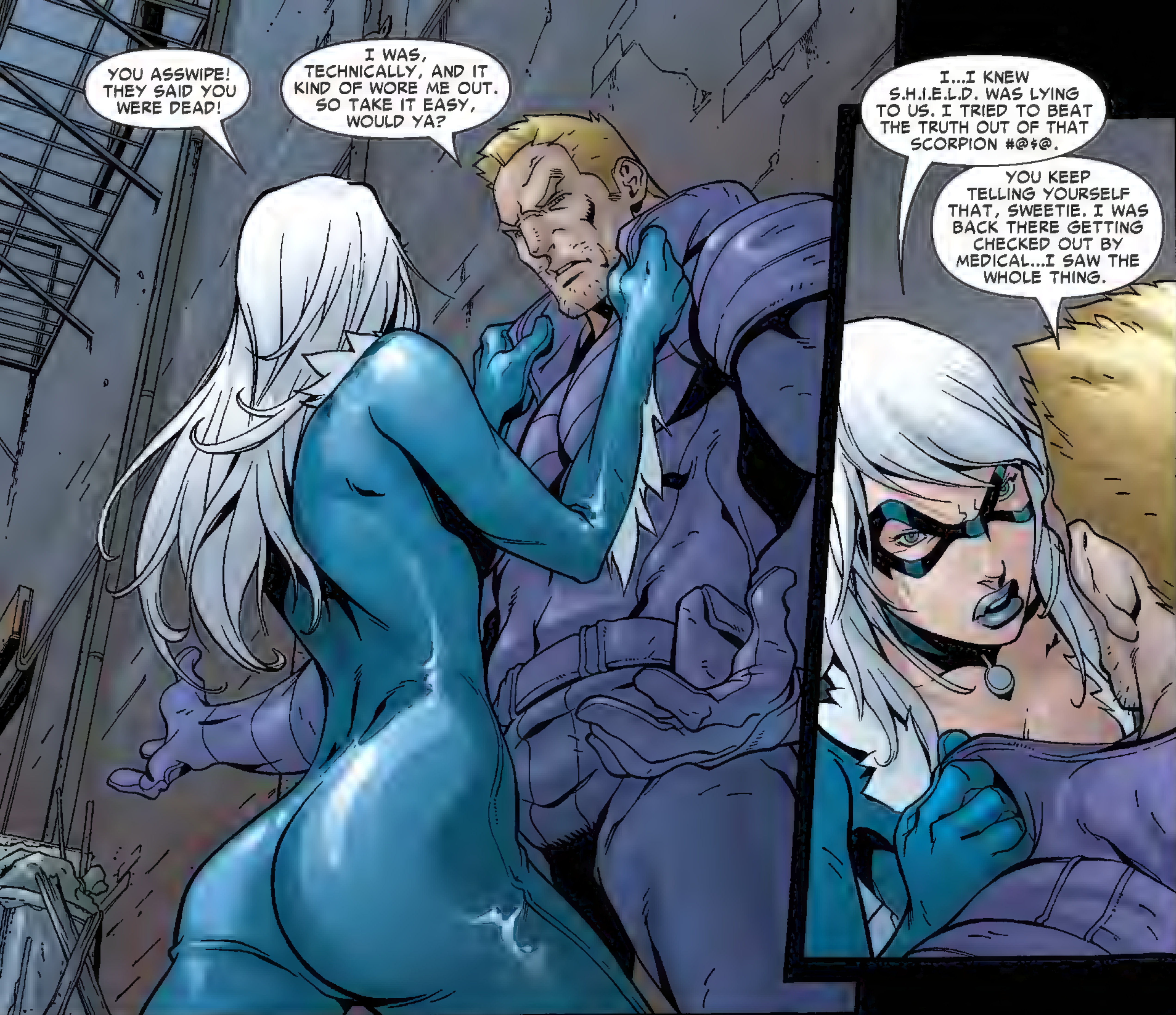


...PALADIN WAS A
DOUBLE-CROSSING
MERC WHO GOT IN
OVER HIS HEAD!



HEY,
HEY...TAKE IT
EASY.

I'M RIGHT
HERE, YOU
KNOW...



YOU ASSWIPE!
THEY SAID YOU
WERE DEAD!

I WAS,
TECHNICALLY, AND IT
KIND OF WORE ME OUT.
SO TAKE IT EASY,
WOULD YA?

I...I KNEW
S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS LYING
TO US. I TRIED TO BEAT
THE TRUTH OUT OF THAT
SCORPION #@%@.

YOU KEEP
TELLING YOURSELF
THAT, SWEETIE. I WAS
BACK THERE GETTING
CHECKED OUT BY
MEDICAL...I SAW THE
WHOLE THING.



I KNOW
EXACTLY WHY
YOU WERE SO
UPSET...

D-DON'T
BE SILLY.



YOU WERE
WORKING FOR
S.H.I.E.L.D.? BUT
ISN'T SCORPION A
S.H.I.E.L.D.
AGENT?

THAT'S
RIGHT. THEY JUST
CONTRACTED MY
SERVICES TO GIVE
HER A LITTLE FIELD
TESTING...SEE IF
SHE HAD A KILLER
INSTINCT.

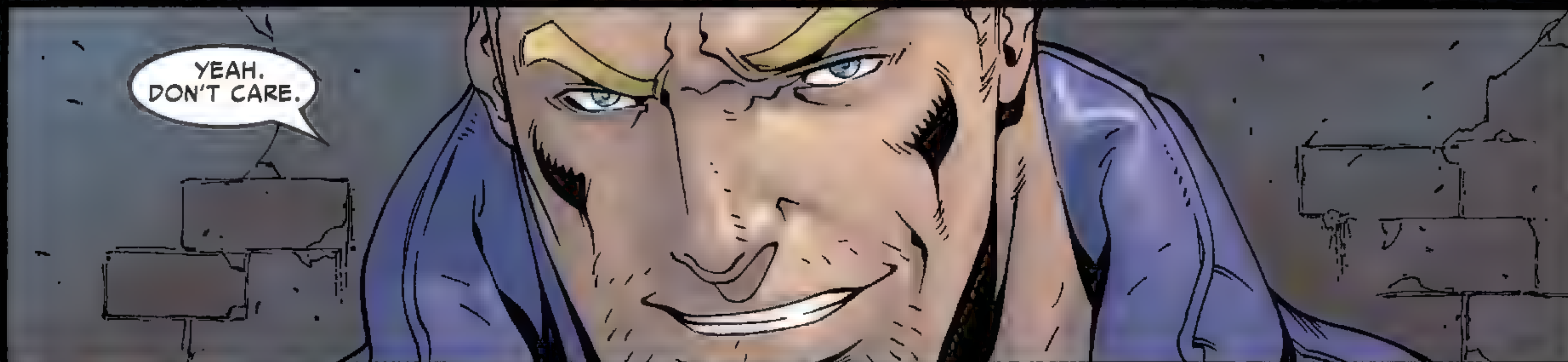
WHICH SHE DID.
EVEN PRE-LOADED
WITH AN ANTIDOTE, IT
TOOK A WHOLE TEAM
TO RESUSCITATE
ME.



DID YOU HEAR OF AN
UNDERGROUND BASE OF
OPERATIONS THE HULK'S
FORCES ARE USING?
SOMETHING CALLED THE
CATACOMBS?

OH...SO
WE'RE IN NEED OF A
LITTLE INFORMATION,
ARE WE? AND WHAT? I'M
SUPPOSED TO JUST HAND
IT OVER BECAUSE WE'RE
ALL SUCH GOOD
FRIENDS?

THEY'VE GOT
COLLEEN AND TARANTULA!
WE THINK THEY'RE BEING
TORTURED THERE...



YEAH.
DON'T CARE.



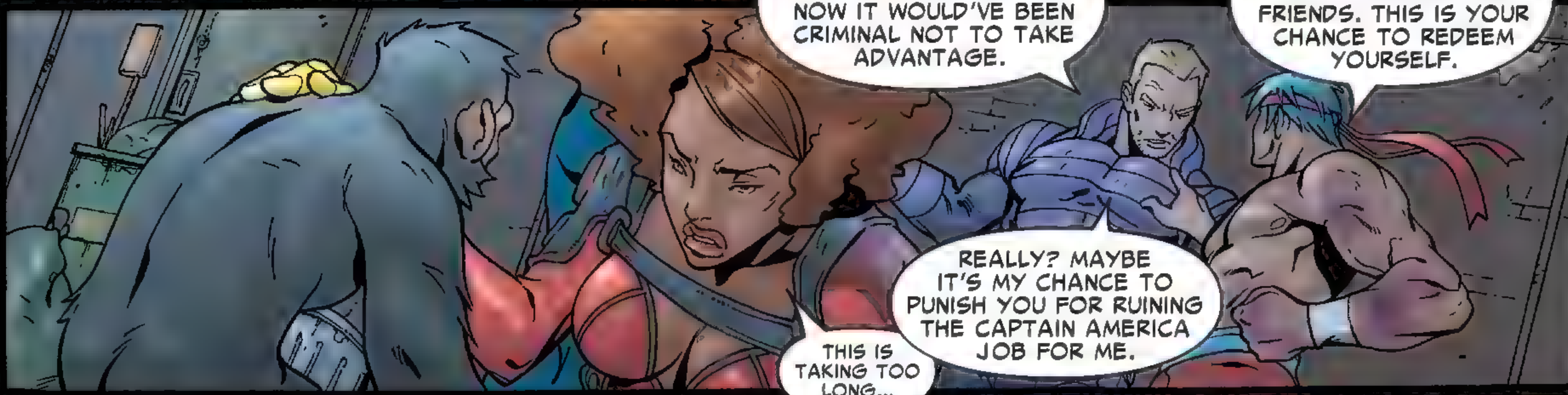
HE DOESN'T KNOW
ANYTHING.

OH, REALLY?
I'VE GOT SO MANY
INFO-TAPS IN THAT
BASE, IT'S CRAZY.

I THOUGHT
YOU WERE WORKING
WITH S.H.I.E.L.D.

HEY, I'M
ONLY HUMAN. THEIR
SECURITY'S SO LAX
RIGHT NOW IT
WOULD'VE BEEN
CRIMINAL NOT TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE.

YOUR TREACHERY
CAN DO GOOD. IT
CAN HELP US SAVE
OUR FRIENDS. THIS
IS YOUR CHANCE
TO REDEEM
YOURSELF.



REALLY? MAYBE
IT'S MY CHANCE
TO PUNISH YOU
FOR RUINING
THE CAPTAIN
AMERICA
JOB FOR ME.

THIS IS
TAKING TOO
LONG...



LEAVE US
ALONE. I'LL GET
HIM TO TALK.

MISTY,
DON'T...

I SAID
GO!



WHAT NOW? YOU GONNA BEAT IT OUT OF ME? I'VE BEEN TORTURED BY THE BEST, MISTY. I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THAT COLD.

I JUST WANNA TALK.



Oh, YEAH? WHAT ABOUT?

MOON-BOY.



S.H.I.E.L.D.'S STILL GONNA WANT HIM AFTER THIS. THEY WERE WILLING TO PAY US A MILLION BUCKS EACH TO BRING HIM IN. BY MY COUNT THAT MAKES HIM WORTH SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS.

IT'S ACTUALLY CLOSER TO TEN. I WAS TRYING TO SCREW YOU.



YOU HELP US GET COLLEEN AND TARANTULA HOME. ALIVE.

AND THE MONKEY'S ALL YOURS.



I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU. YOU ARE THAT COLD.



BROADWAY AND 12TH. GIVE ME FIFTEEN MINUTES.





AND WE'RE GONNA NEED THIS BABY TO PULL OFF THIS SMASH AND GRAB.

YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE?

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN. THE HULK'S UP TO SOMETHING. S.H.I.E.L.D. THINKS HE AND HIS PEOPLE ARE SETTING UP BASE BELOW THE COLISEUM.



THE CATACOMBS!

EXACTLY.



I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STOLE THIS THING FROM S.H.I.E.L.D.

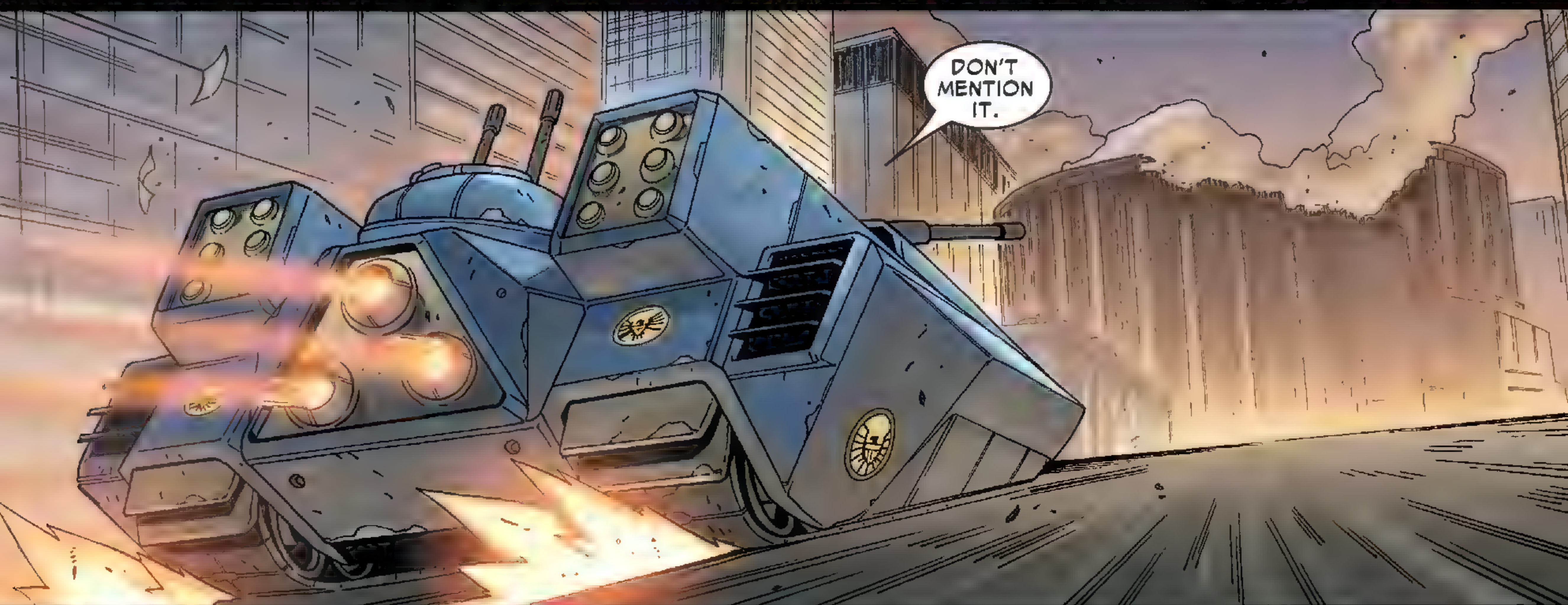
THANKS, PALADIN.

HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT. BEFORE I JACKED IT I PLANTED YOUR FINGERPRINTS ALL OVER THE PLACE.



THEY'RE TOTALLY GONNA THINK YOU GUYS DID IT.

Oh, GREAT. THANKS.



DON'T MENTION IT.

THE CATACOMBS.

EEEEEEEEEE!!!

THE
SOUND...SO
HORRIBLE.

YES. THE
NERVE-MAGGOTS
FEAST. YOUR BROTHER
WILL BE AVENGED.

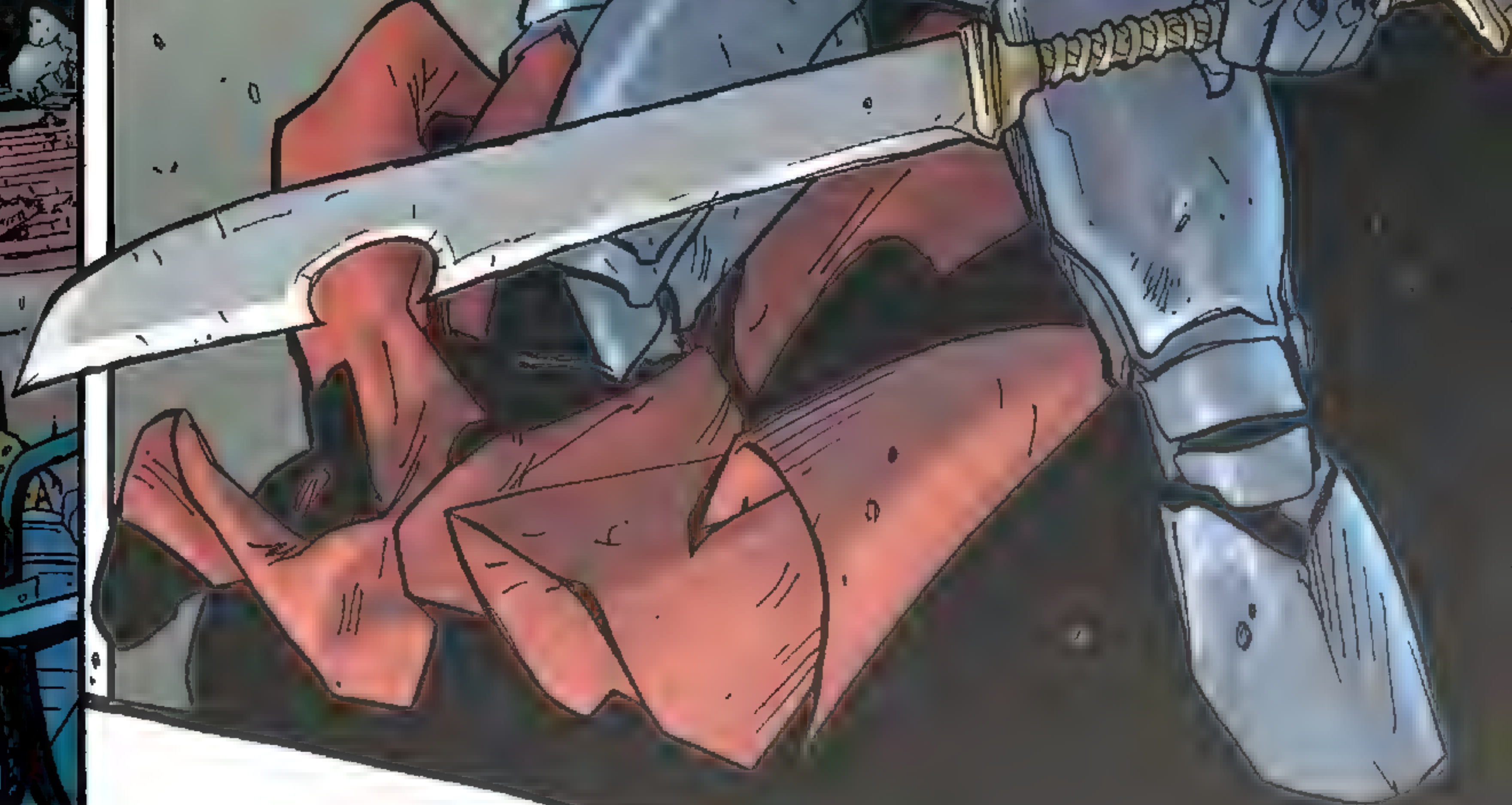
SO MUCH
PAIN...

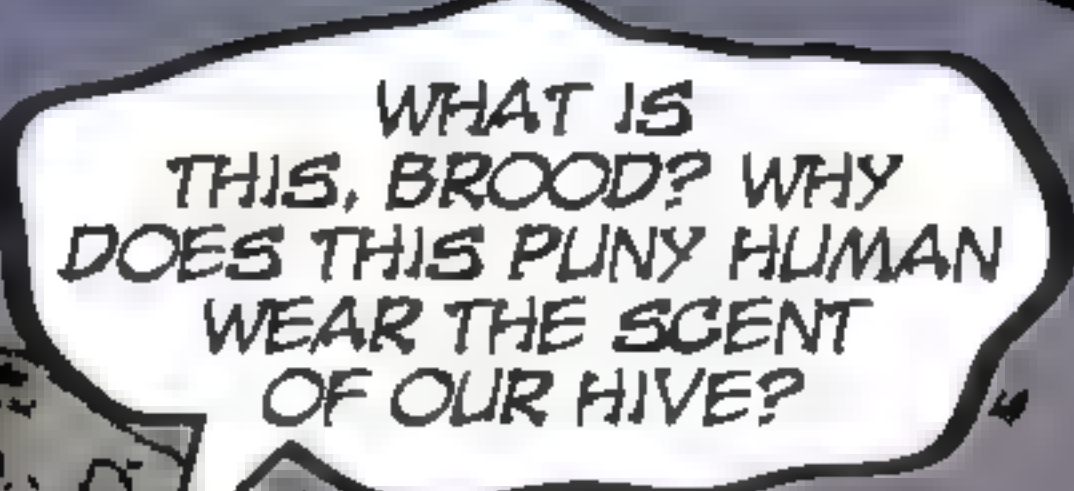
VIOLENCE
AGAINST OUR
KIND CANNOT BE
TOLERATED...

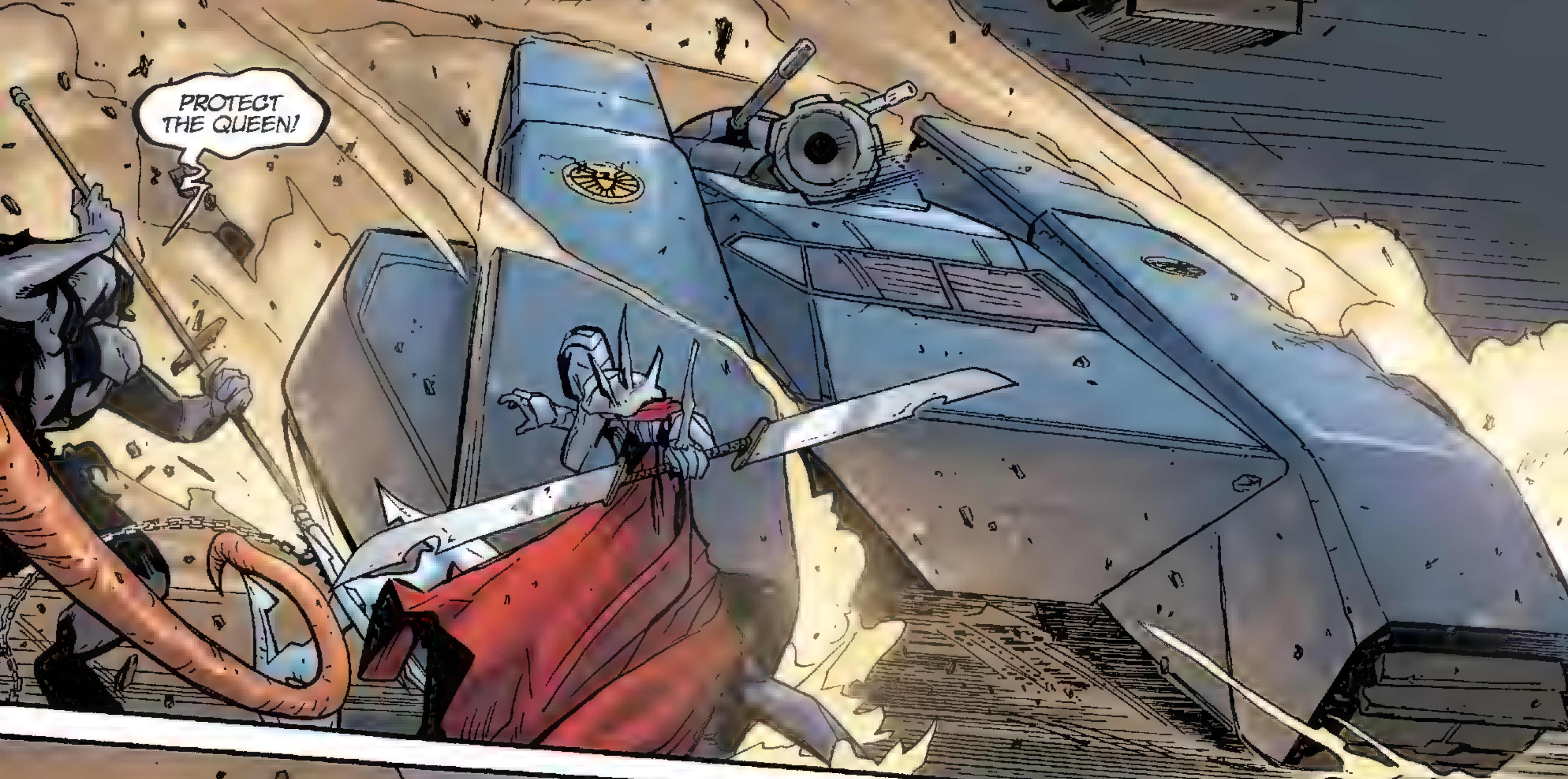
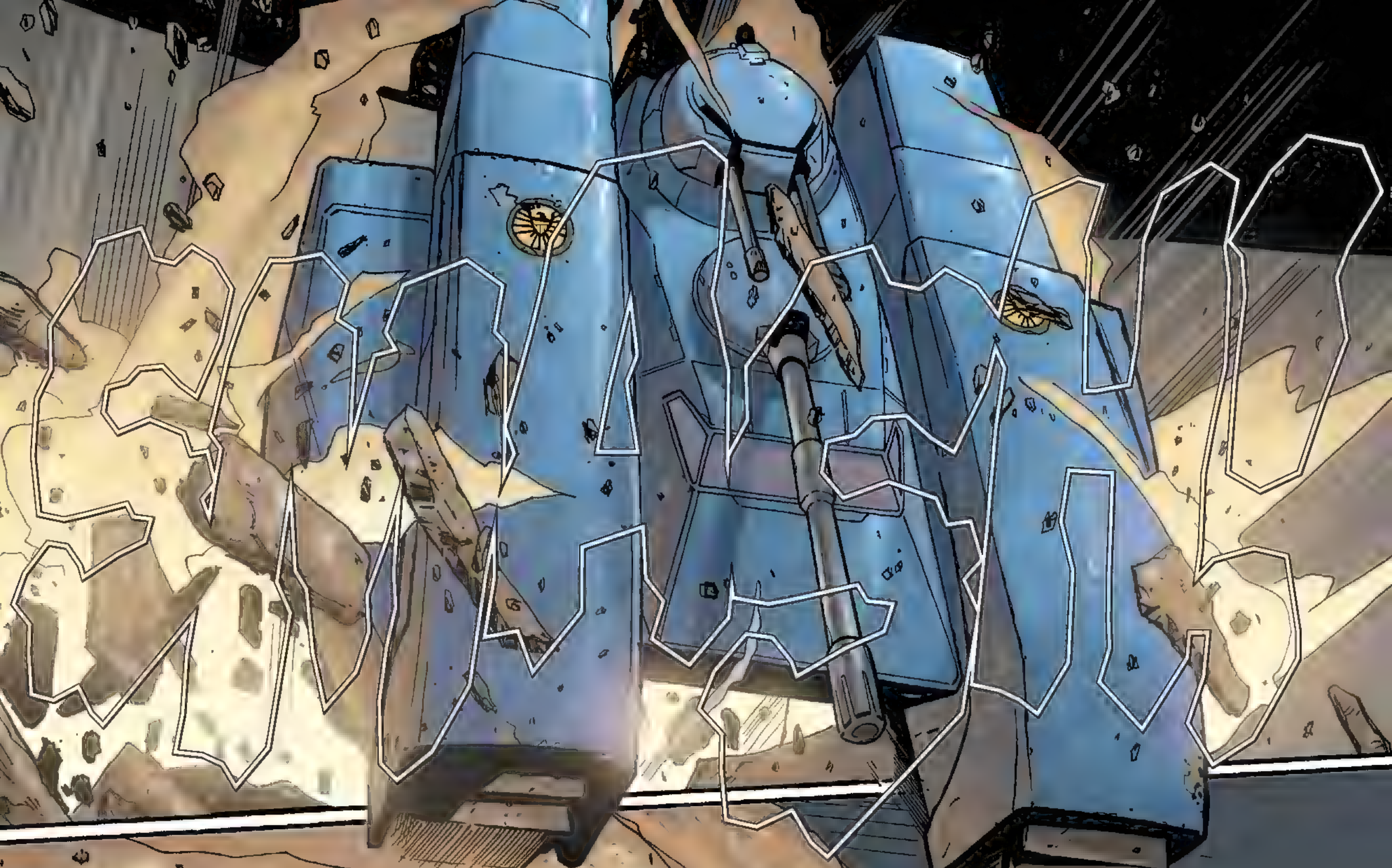


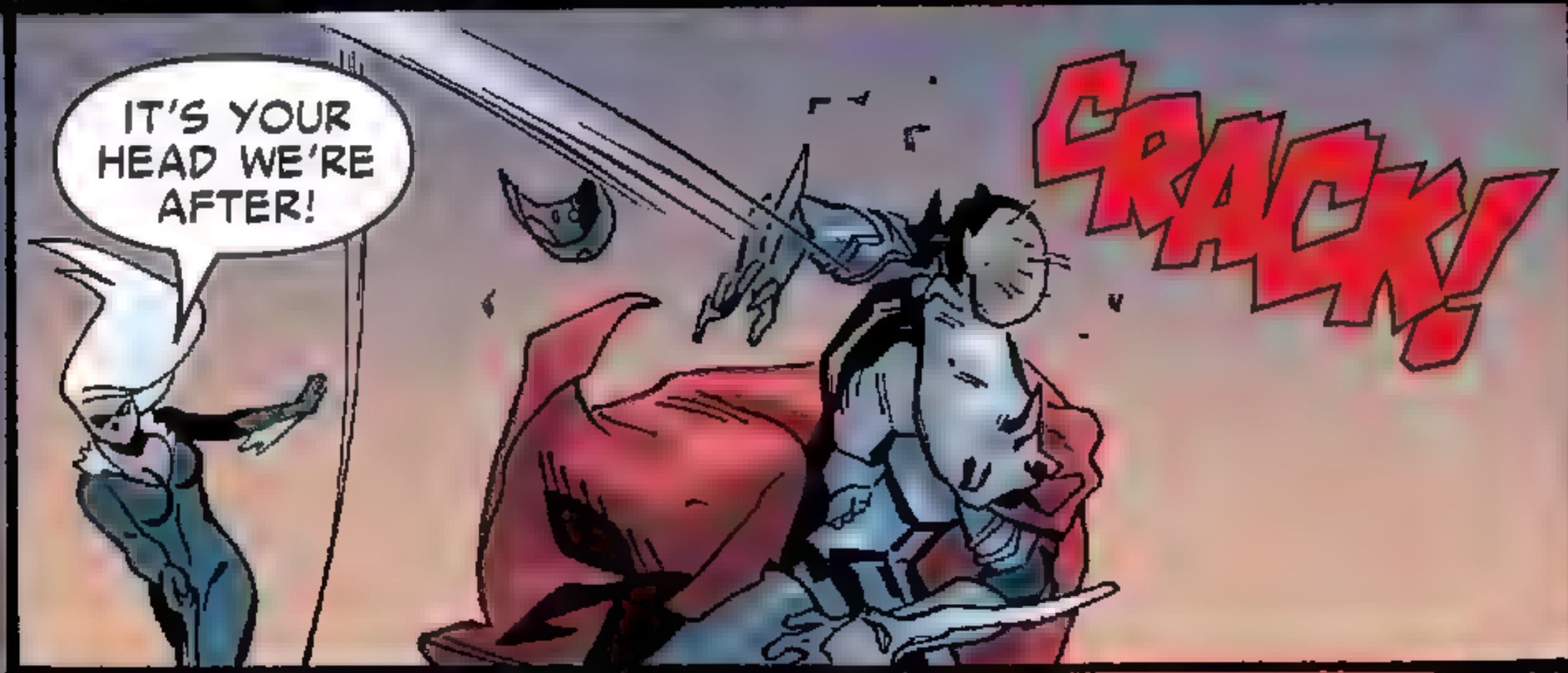
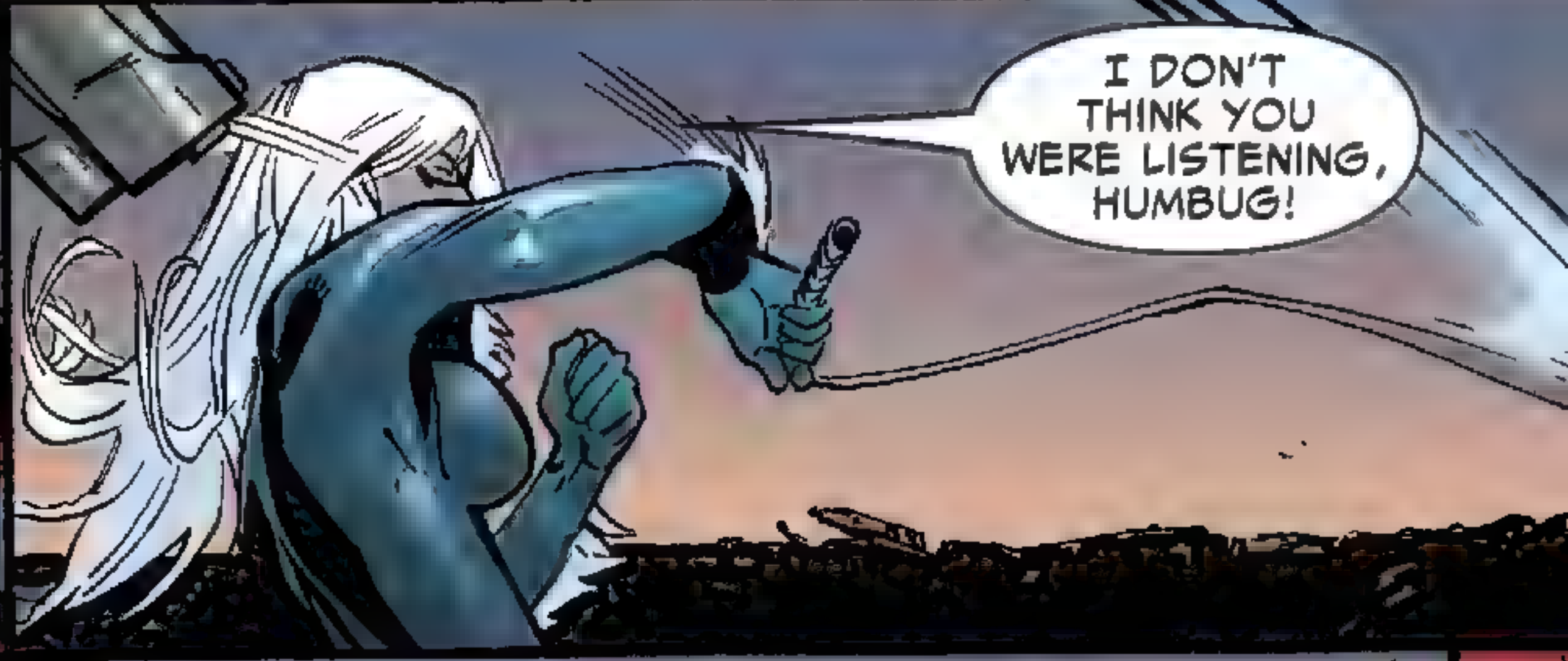
≠KIK≠
≠KIK≠

≠KIK≠











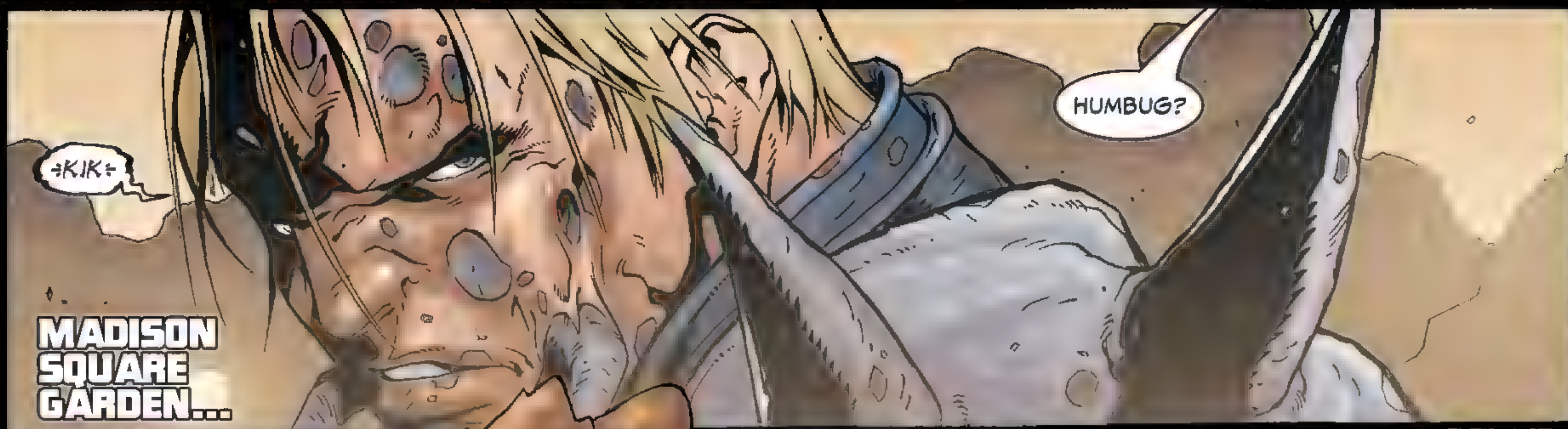
WHAT
DID YOU
DO?

≡KIK≡

TO BE CONTINUED...

#15





≡KIK≡

MADISON
SQUARE
GARDEN...



W-WHAT
DID THEY DO
TO HIM?

PRAY IT
WAS DONE TO
HIM, MISTY. I FEAR
HE WENT DOWN
THIS ROAD
HIMSELF.

FEFAHH!!!



P-PALADIN?
D-DO YOU
SEE...

WHATEVER,
CAT. I ALWAYS
KNEW THAT
GUY WAS A
WEIRDO.

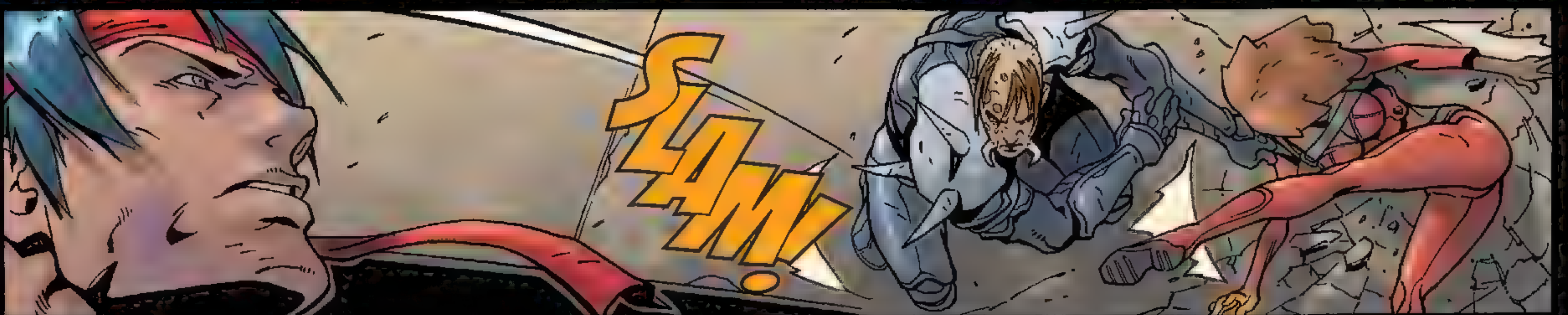
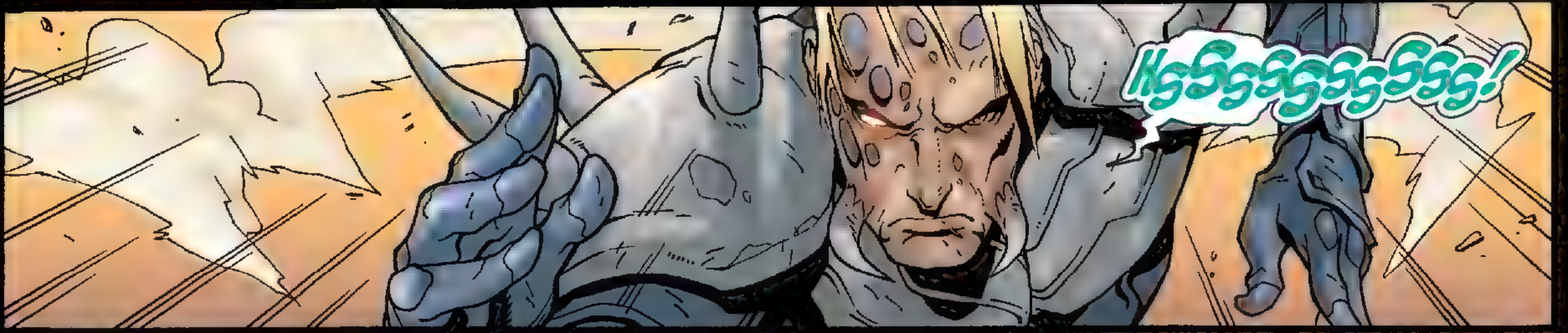
WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE,
BROOD?!

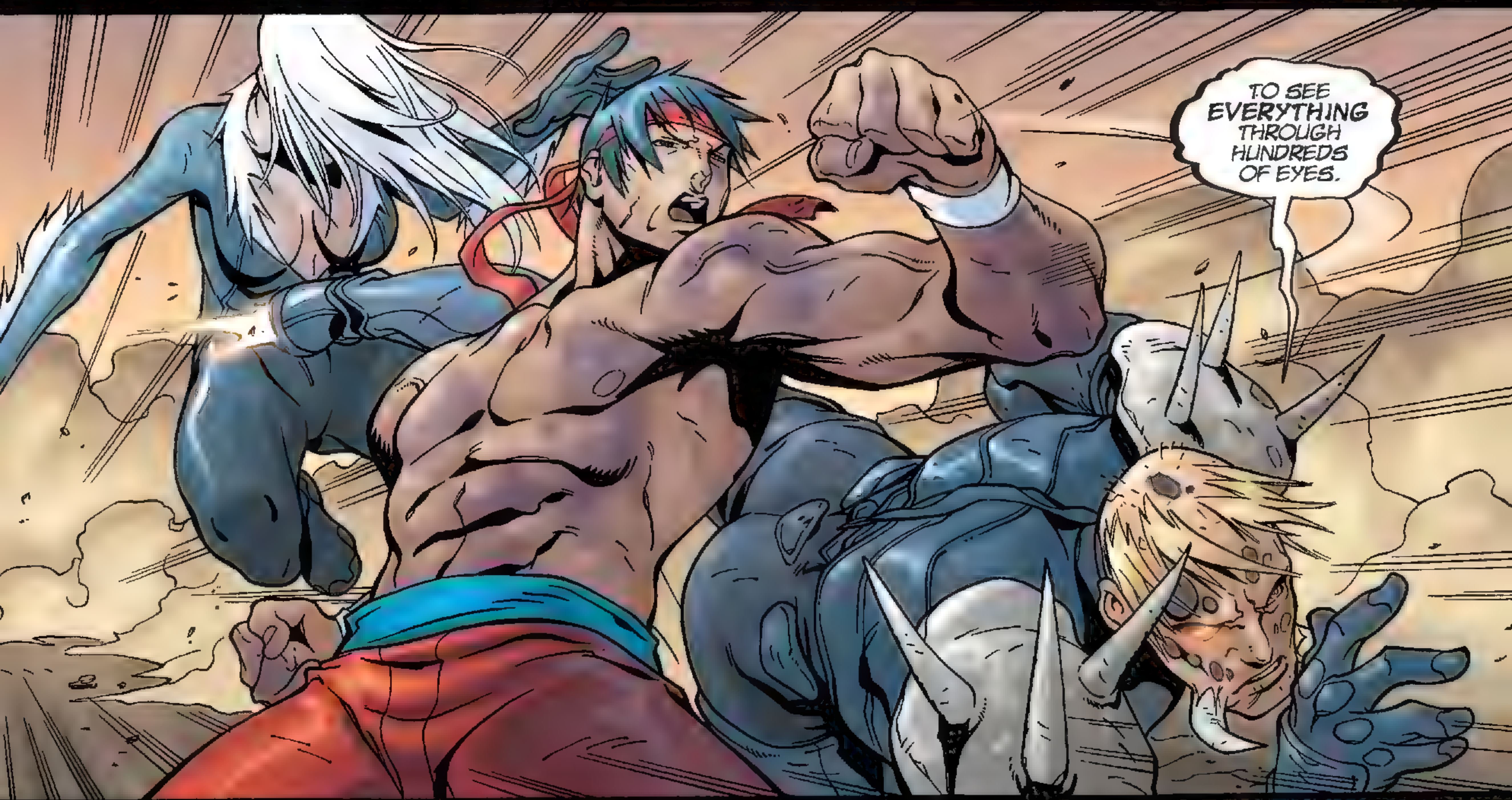
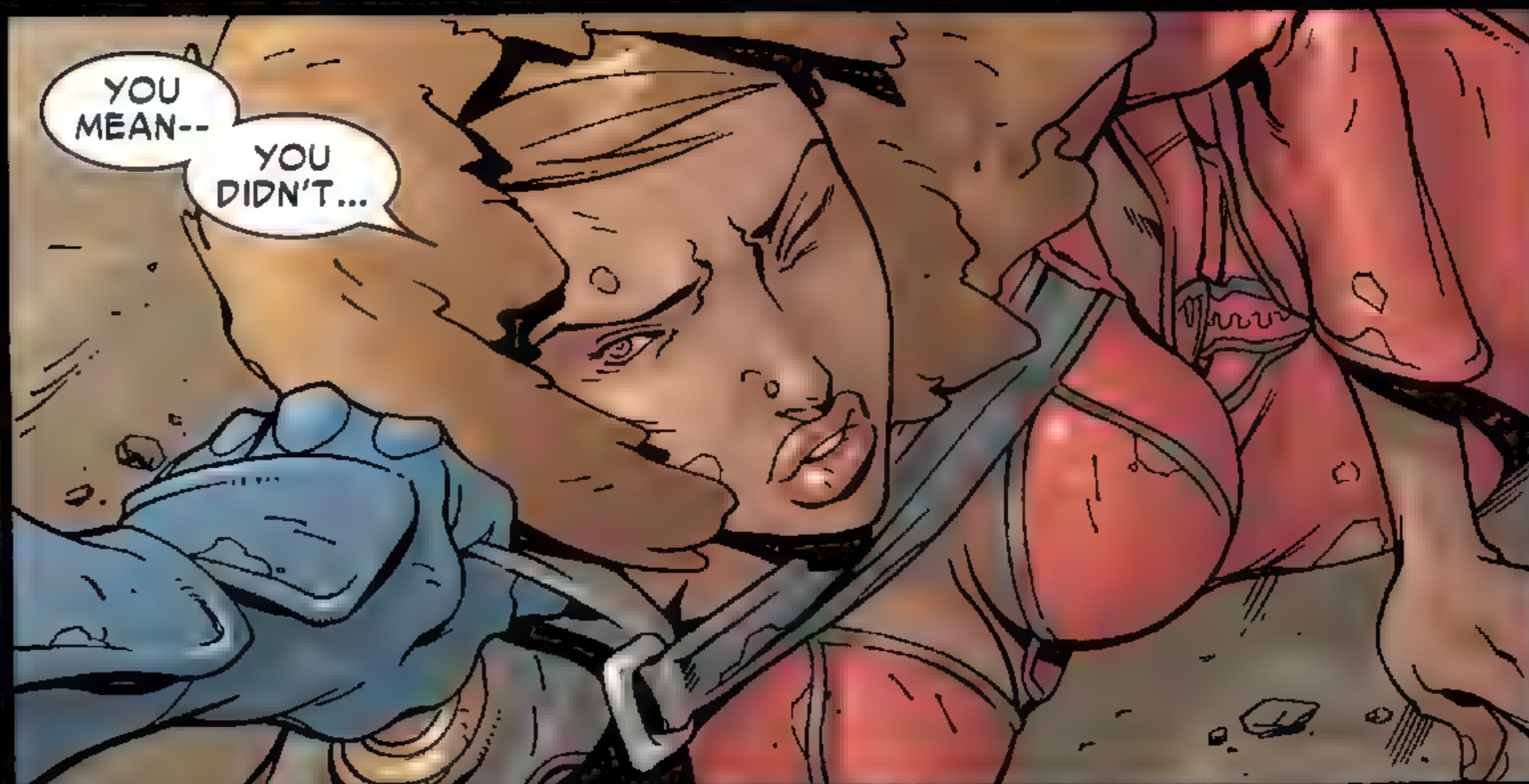


I HAVE
FOUND THE
PERFECT...
AMBASSADOR
FOR US,
MIEK.

YOUR
HUMAN PET
HAS ≡KIK≡ ≡KIK≡
CAUSED US
NOTHING BUT
TROUBLE!





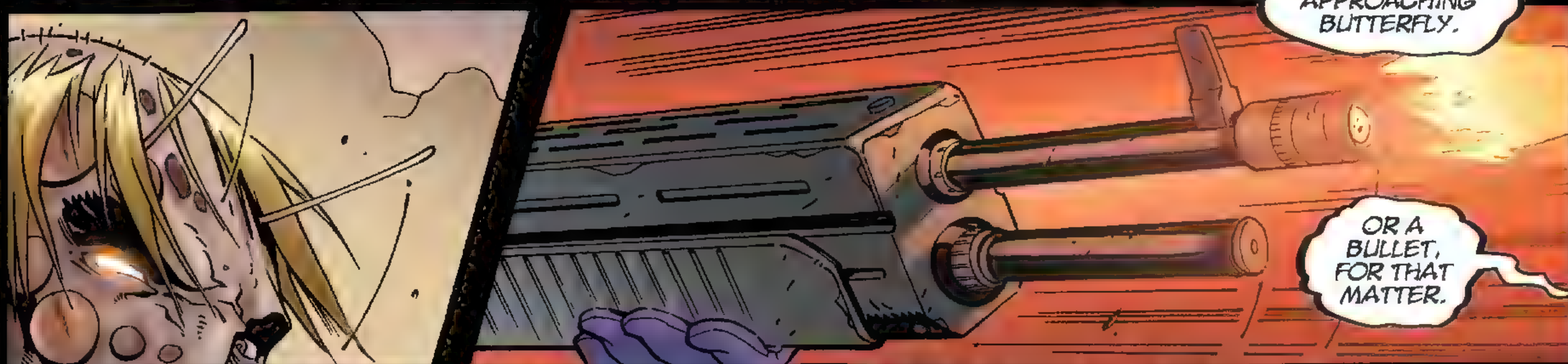




TO REACT WITH
PURE INSTINCT...
INSTANTLY.



TO FEEL
THE SLIGHTEST
CHANGE IN YOUR
SURROUNDINGS. TO
FEEL THE DISRUPTION
IN THE AIR OF AN
APPROACHING
BUTTERFLY.



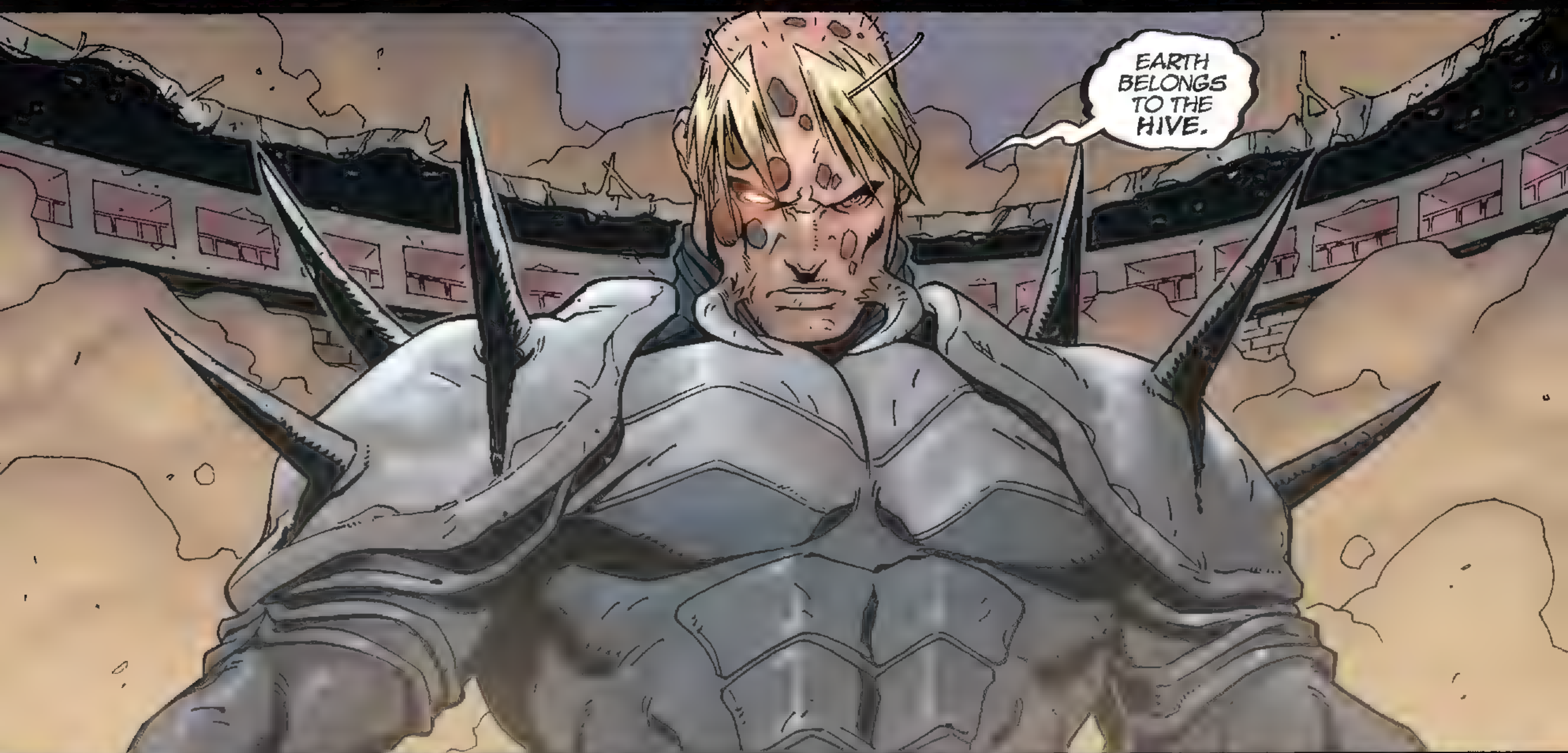
OR A
BULLET,
FOR THAT
MATTER.



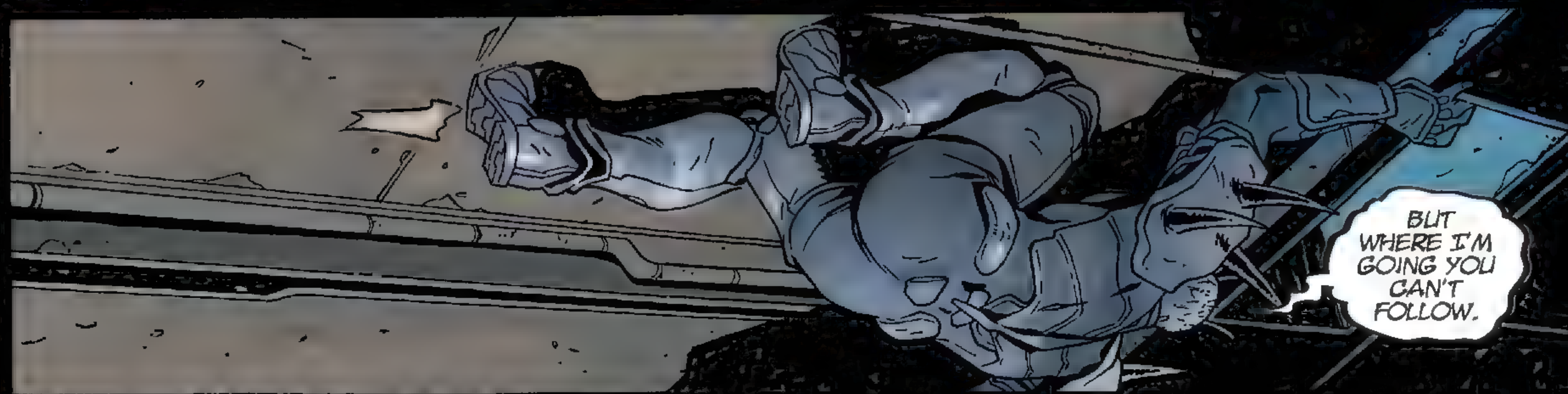
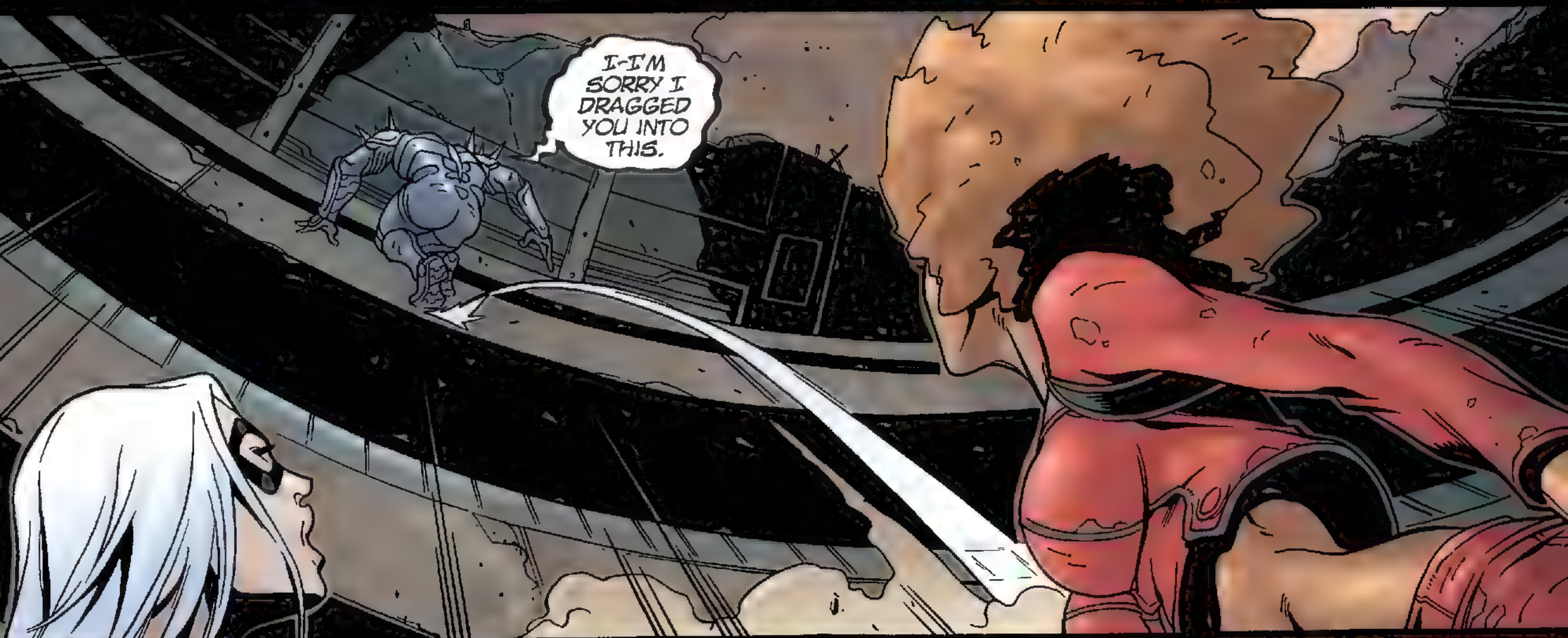
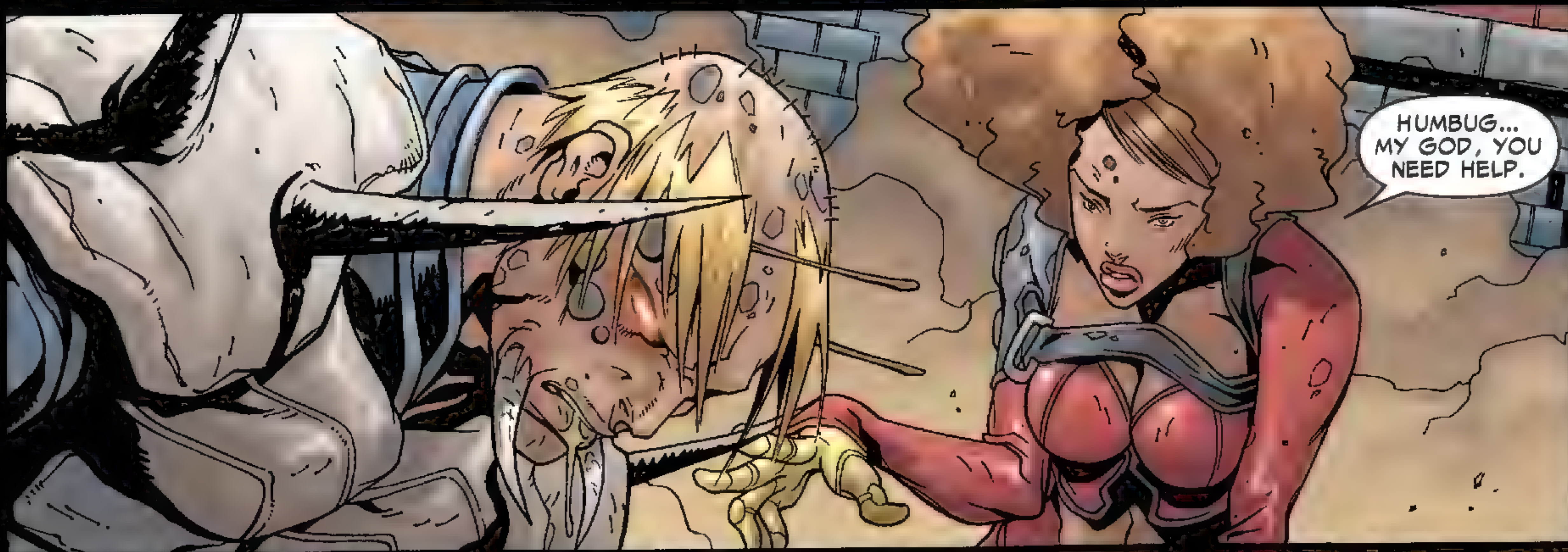
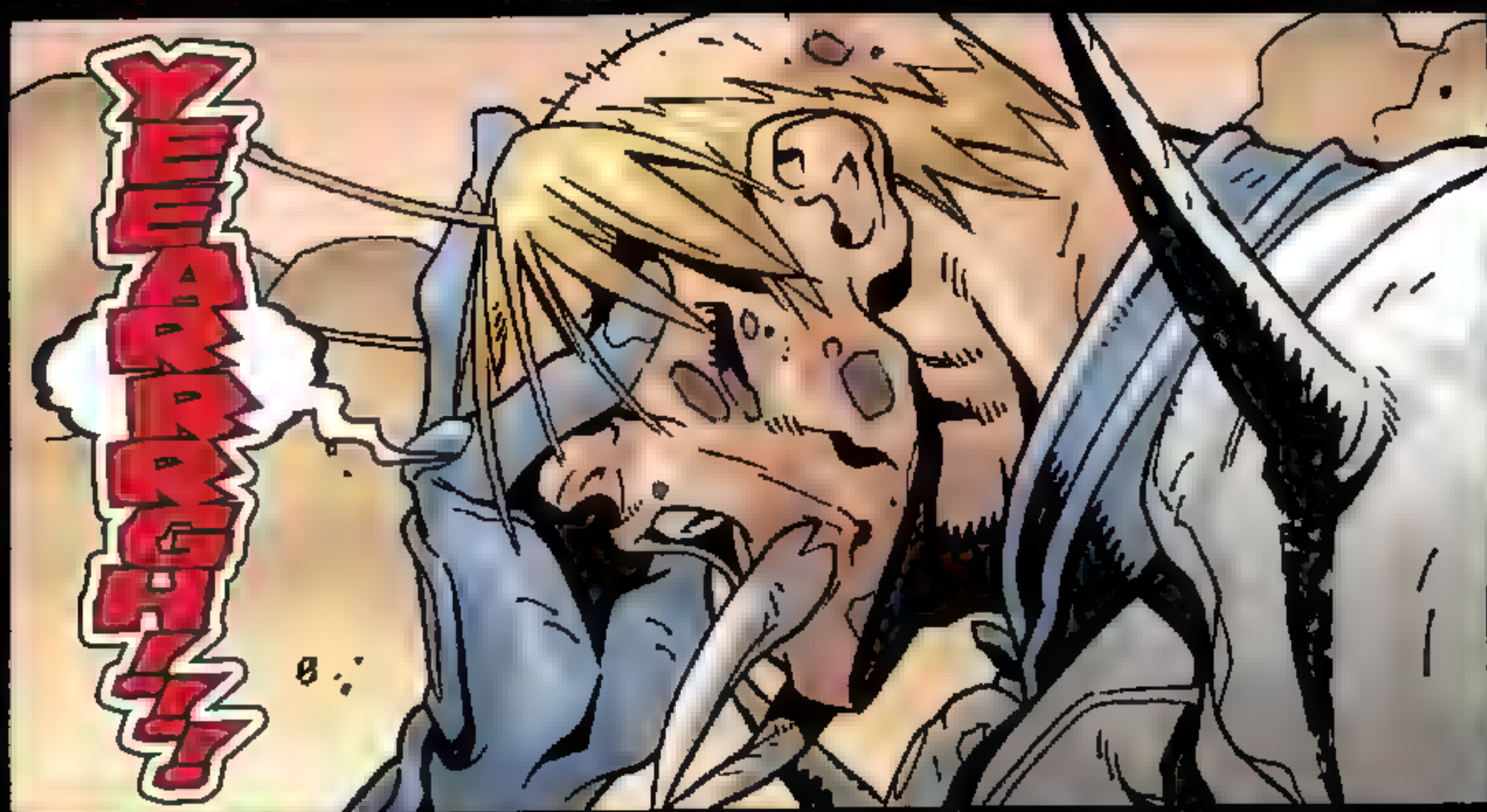
YOUR
HUMAN WORLD
IS POINTLESS, BUT
IT WILL NOT BE
YOURS FOR MUCH
LONGER.

PFT!
PFT!

FEF!

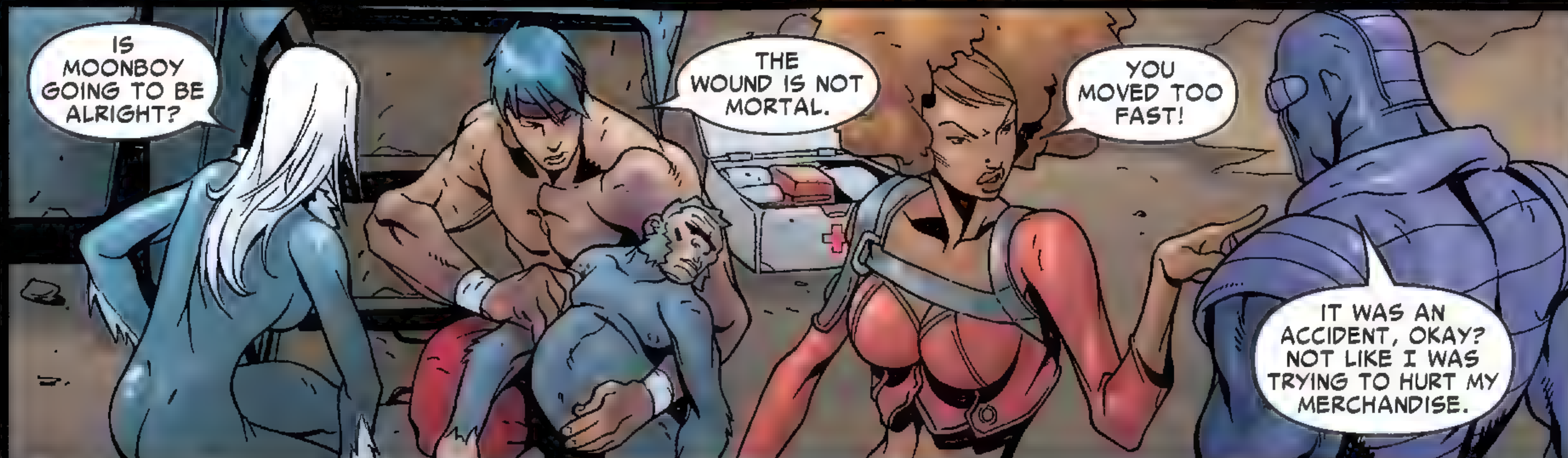


EARTH
BELONGS
TO THE
HIVE.





OKAY! WE REALLY WANTED TO FOLLOW YOU AROUND, BUT GUESS WE'LL JUST WAIT HERE...
PSYCHO...



IS MOONBOY GOING TO BE ALRIGHT?

THE WOUND IS NOT MORTAL.

YOU MOVED TOO FAST!

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, OKAY? NOT LIKE I WAS TRYING TO HURT MY MERCHANDISE.



MERCHANDISE? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

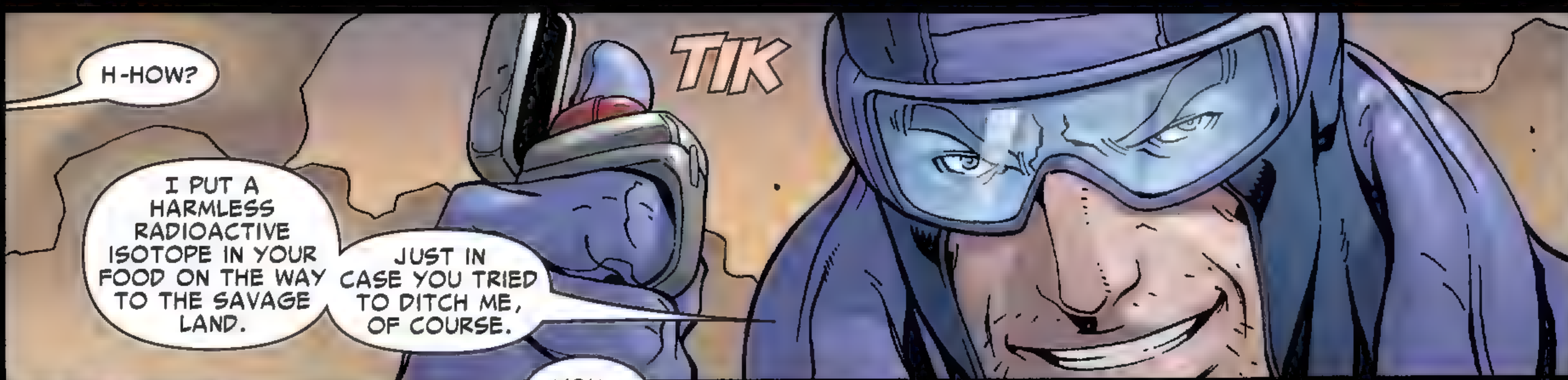
LISTEN, WE'VE GOT TO WORRY ABOUT COLLEEN AND TARANTULA. THEY'RE THE REASON WE CAME HERE.

I'VE GOT THAT COVERED.



WHAT'S THAT?

A SHORT-RANGE RECEIVER. IF THEY'RE IN RANGE, I CAN TRACK THEM.



H-HOW?

I PUT A HARMLESS RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE IN YOUR FOOD ON THE WAY TO THE SAVAGE LAND.

JUST IN CASE YOU TRIED TO DITCH ME, OF COURSE.

TIK

YOU... YOU...



RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE! G-GET IT OUT!

RELAX. IT'LL WORK ITS WAY OUT OF YOUR BODY NATURALLY...

IN ABOUT FIVE YEARS.

BEEP BEEP

**THE TUNNELS
BENEATH MADISON
SQUARE GARDEN...**



GOOD,
THE OFFSPRING
WILL NEED PROTEIN TO
MATURE. HURRY, MIEK
WILL NOTICE YOU'RE
GONE BEFORE
LONG.

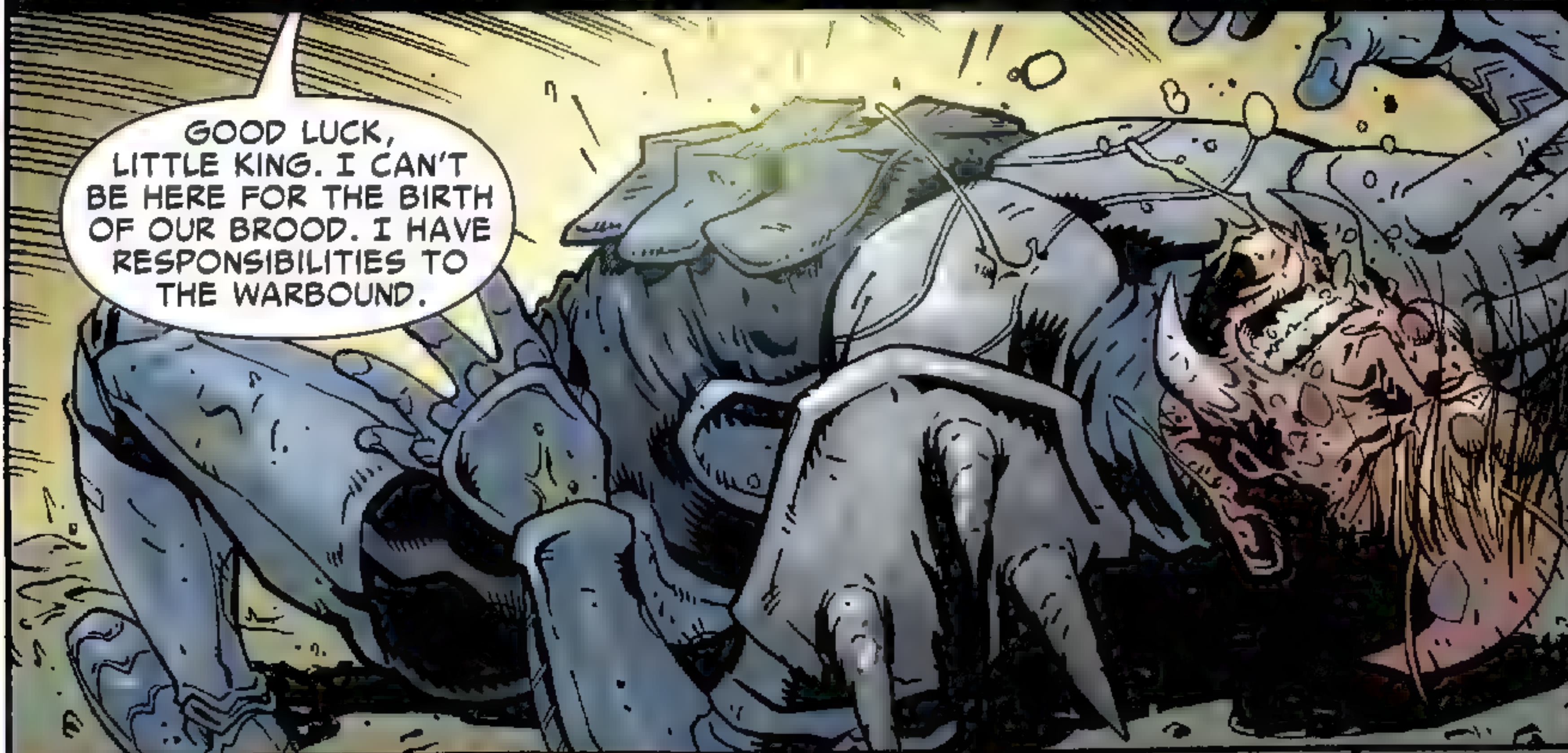


HNNN.

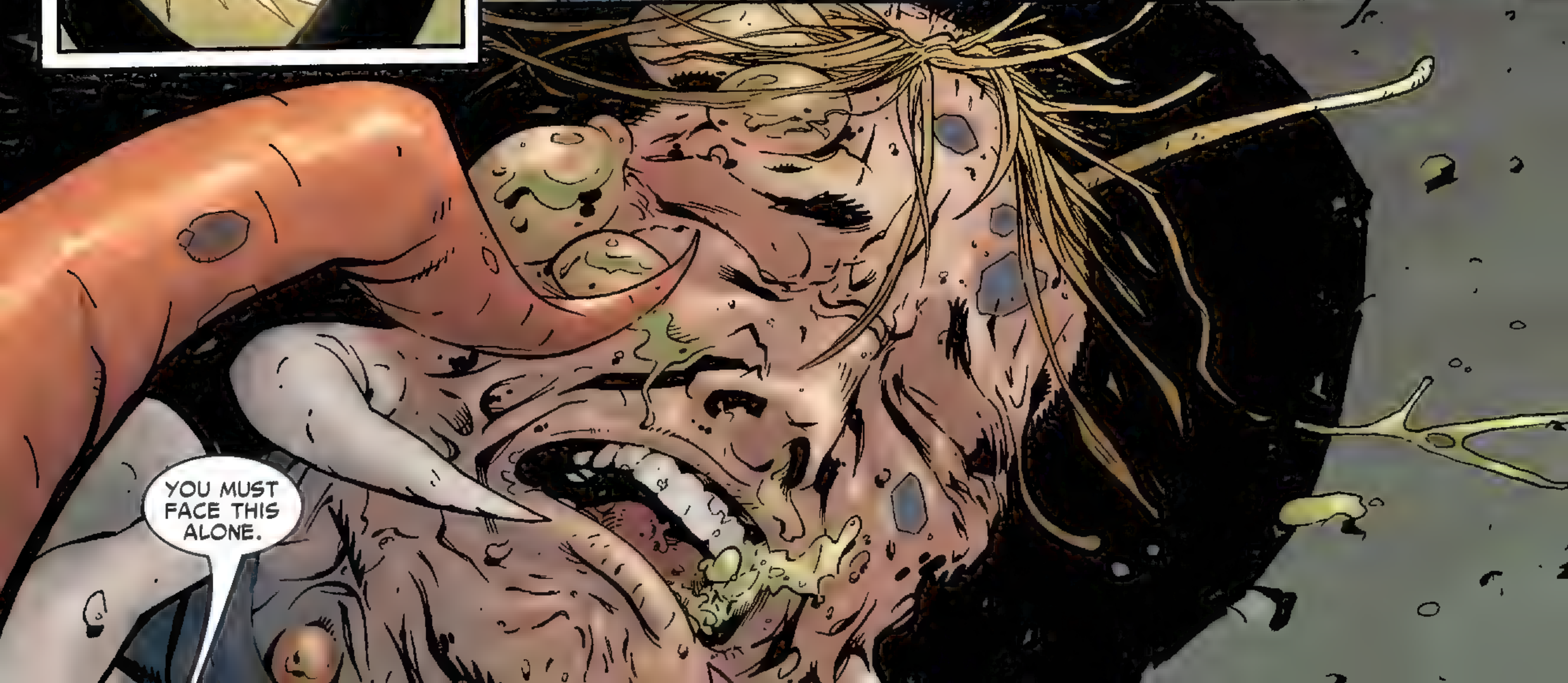


WELCOME
TO THE
HATCHERY.

WE'RE SO
FORTUNATE TO HAVE
FOUND YOU, HUMBUG. MIEK
SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS
BURDEN. BUT HE'S LOST
TO VENGEANCE...HE
CAN'T RAISE THIS
NEW HIVE.



GOOD LUCK,
LITTLE KING. I CAN'T
BE HERE FOR THE BIRTH
OF OUR BROOD. I HAVE
RESPONSIBILITIES TO
THE WARBOUND.



YOU MUST
FACE THIS
ALONE.

ELSEWHERE...

HNHNHNHNHNHNHNHN

BLAM!!

HNHNHNHNHNHNHNHN

COLLEEN?
TARANTULA?

THEY'RE IN
HERE, MY TRACERS
DON'T LIE. WHETHER
THEY'RE IN A STATE
TO ANSWER YOU,
I DON'T--

BEEP BEEP

HNHNHNHNHNHNHNHN

...KNOW...

**BEEP
BEEP**

HNHNHNHNHNHNHNHN

COLLEEN?

HOW
MANY YEARS
HAVE I BEEN
HERE?

HNHNHNHNHNHNHNHN



COLLEEN?
W-WE'RE
HERE NOW,
GIRL.

HOW MANY
YEARS? HOW
MANY YEARS HAS
IT BEEN.

YEARS?
WE'VE JUST
BEEN GONE
A COUPLE OF
HOURS...

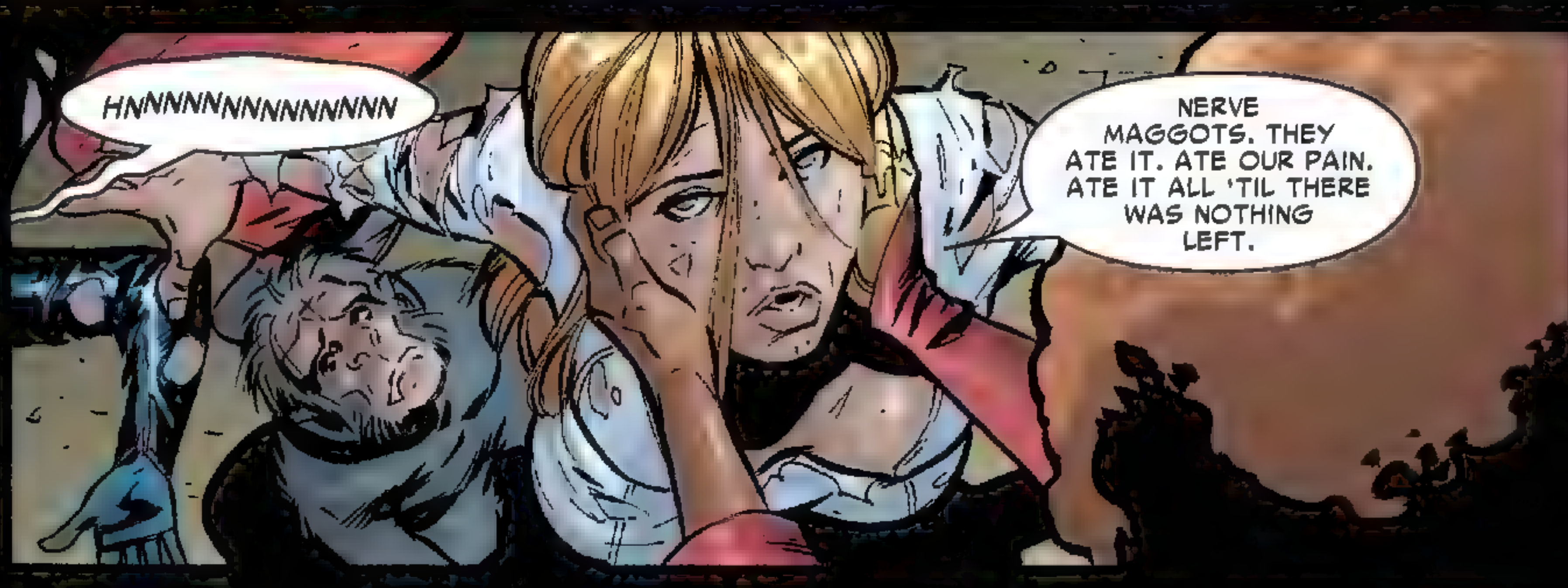
MARIA?

HEY,
GUYS...

HNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

WE'RE NOT
ALONE.

HNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN



HNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

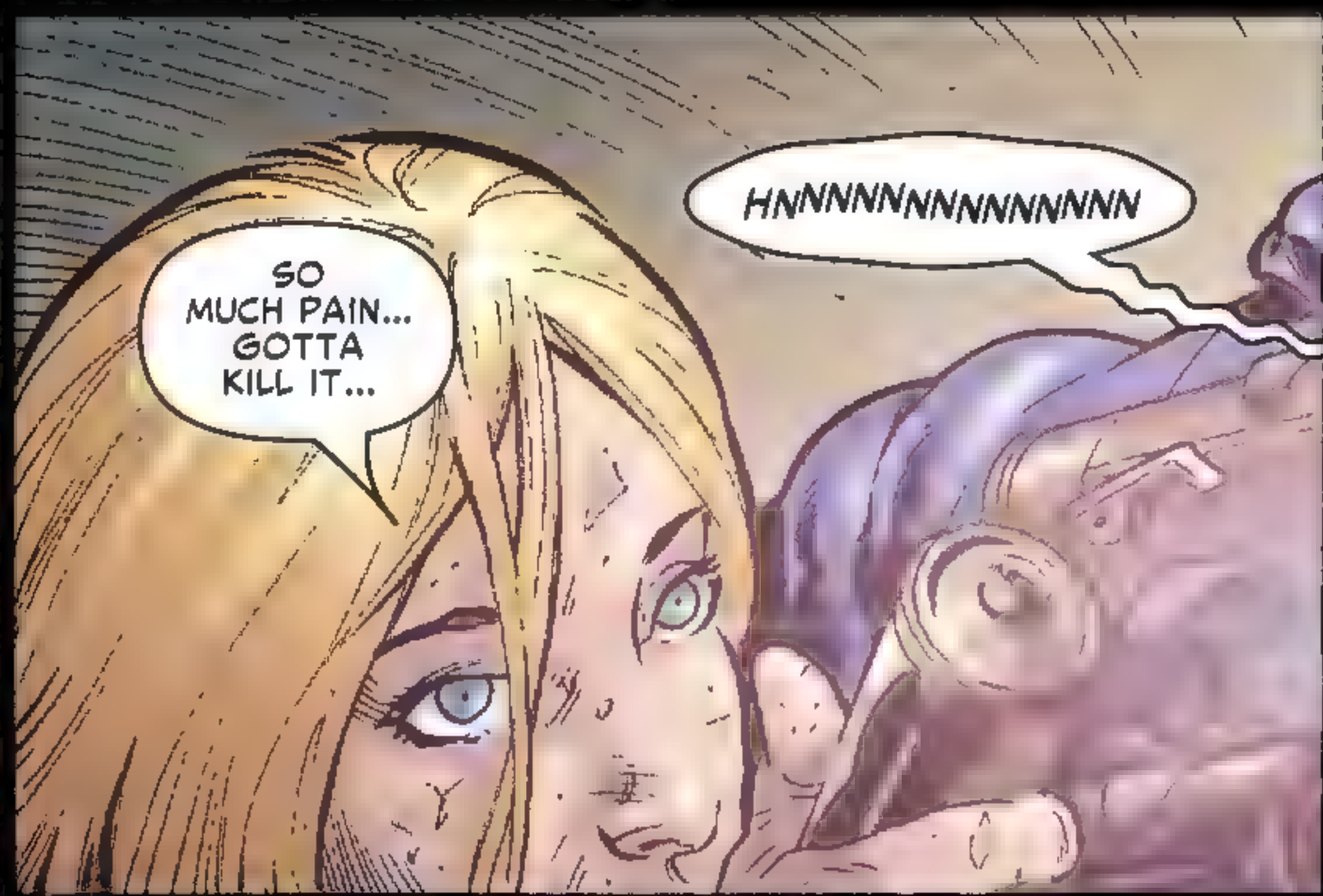
NERVE
MAGGOTS. THEY
ATE IT. ATE OUR PAIN.
ATE IT ALL 'TIL THERE
WAS NOTHING
LEFT.



NOTHING
LEFT.

HNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN

THESE
THINGS LOOK
BLOATED...I THINK
THEY'RE SLEEPING.





SHANG,
IS TARANTULA
OKAY?

I DO NOT
KNOW.

WE'RE
GETTING OUT
OF HERE!

HHNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN



HHNNNNNNNNNNNNNNNN



WHAT'S
HER
STORY?

IS SHE
TALKING?



NO. IT
IS BARELY
AUDIBLE,
BUT...

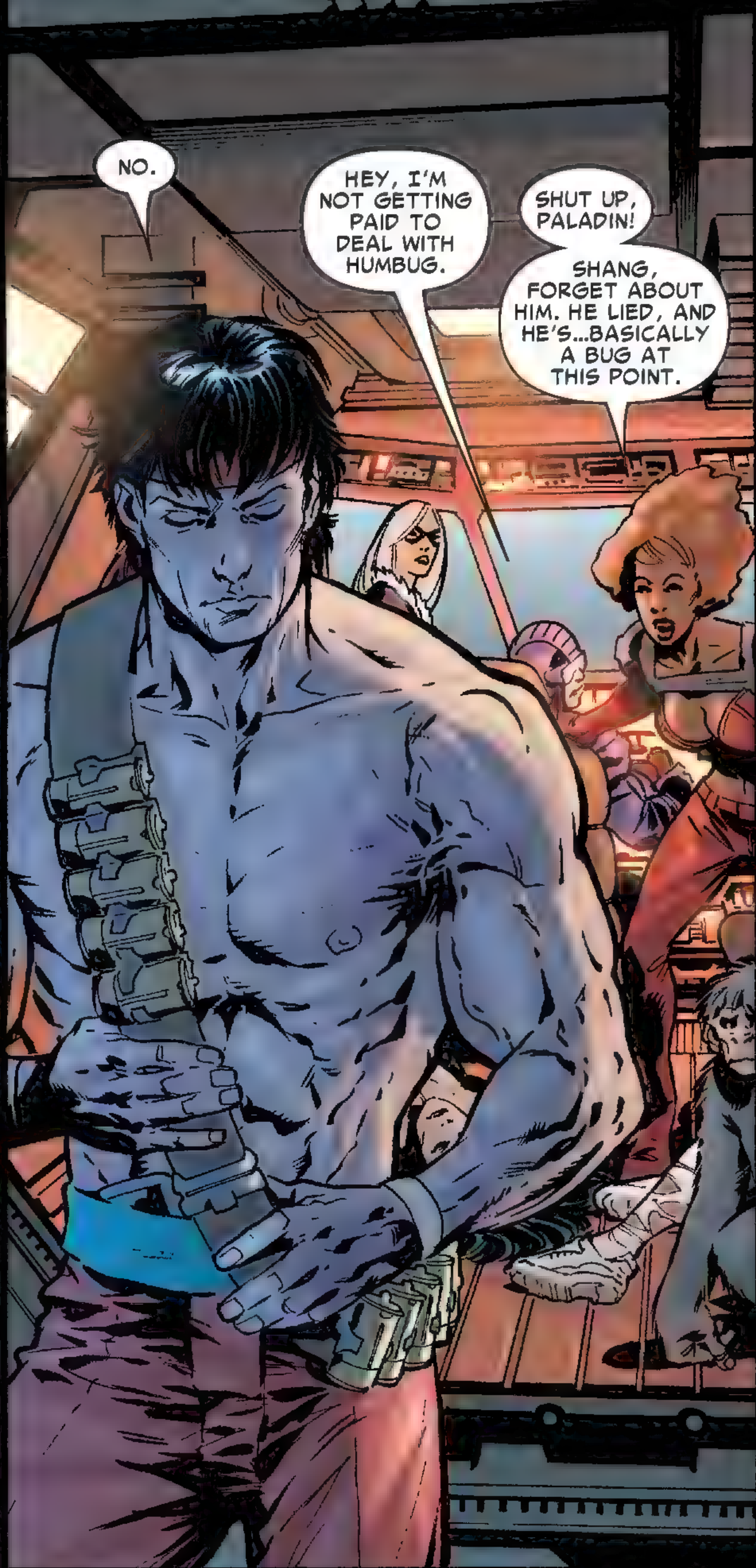
...BUT
SHE IS
CRYING.



SHANG,
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

HUMBUG.
HUMBUG DID
THIS.

SIT DOWN...
WE'RE
LEAVING!



NO.

HEY, I'M
NOT GETTING
PAID TO
DEAL WITH
HUMBUG.

SHUT UP,
PALADIN!

SHANG,
FORGET ABOUT
HIM. HE LIED, AND
HE'S...BASICALLY
A BUG AT
THIS POINT.



THIS IS
AN ALIEN
INVASION...LET THE
AVENGERS DEAL
WITH IT!

THAT'S
NOT WHAT
THIS IS ABOUT.
HE HURT MARIA
AND BETRAYED
US ALL.

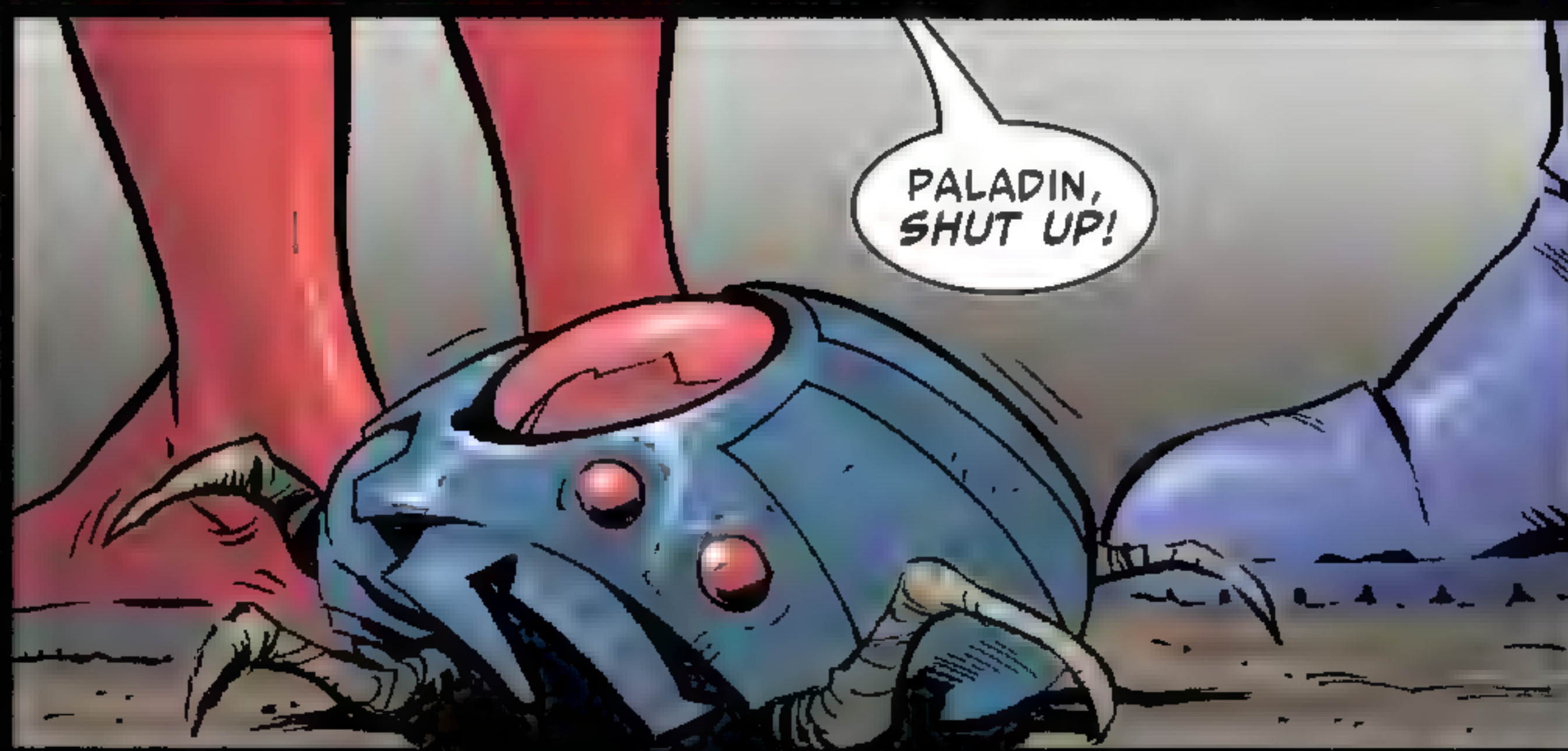


THIS
CANNOT
STAND.

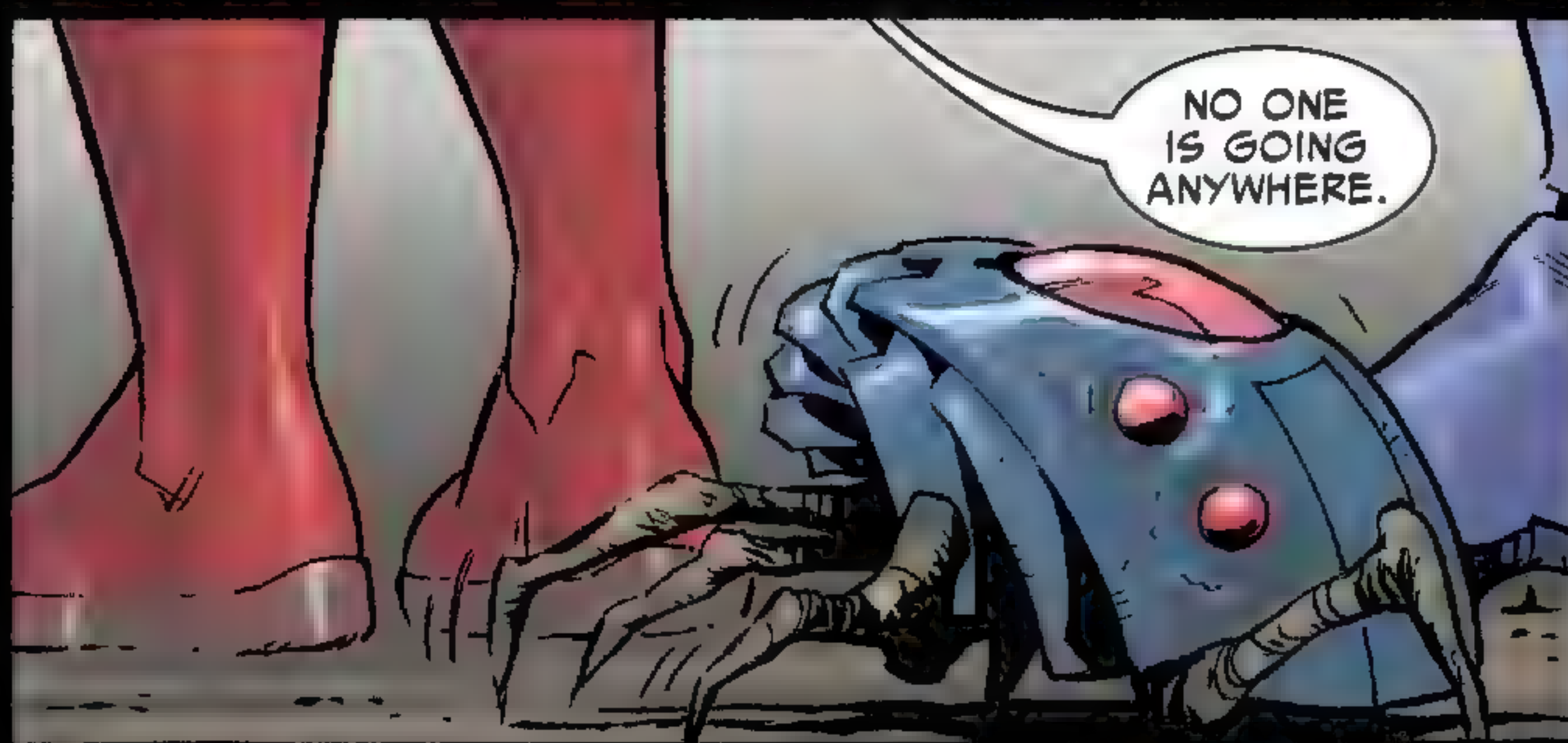


SHANG!
##%%#!

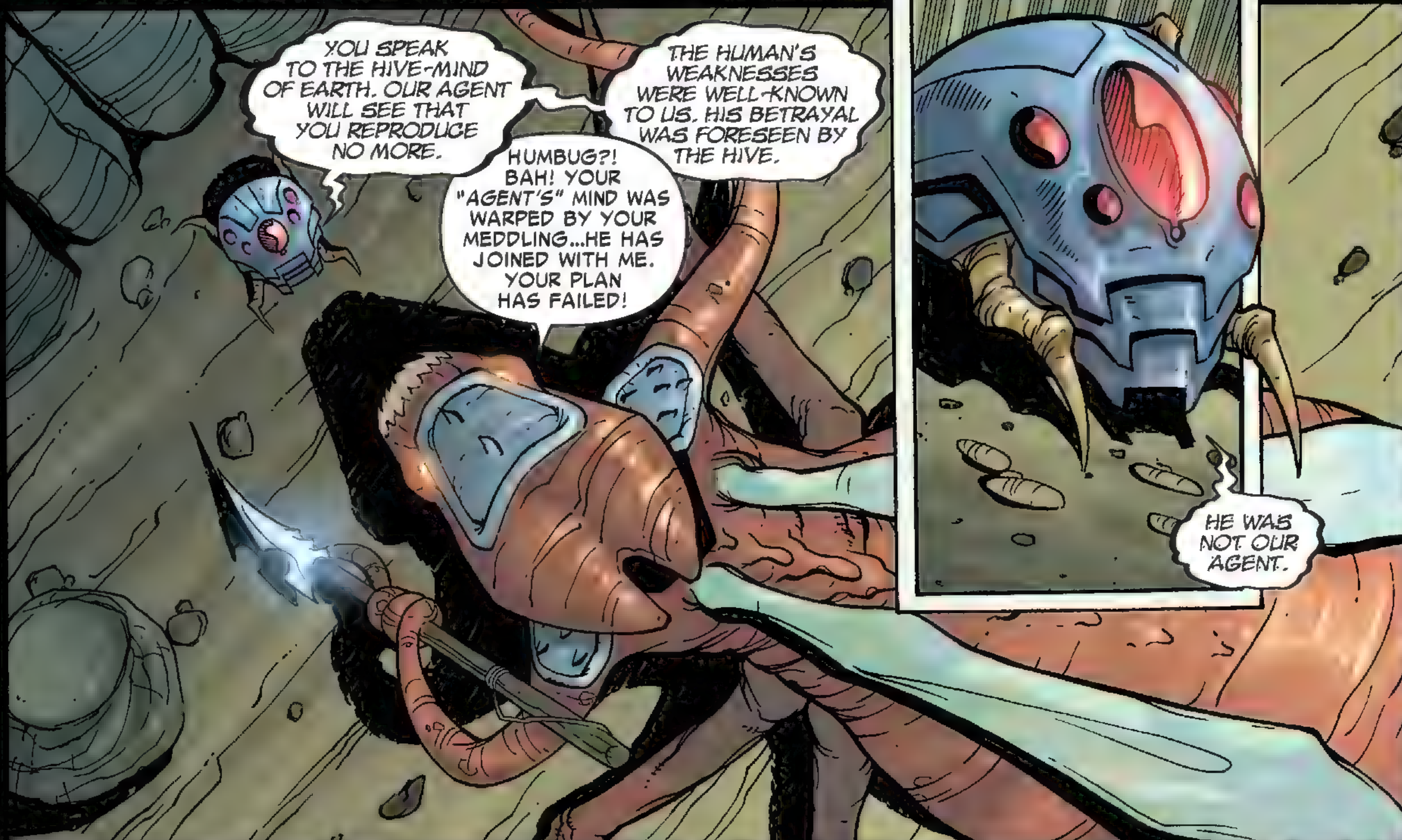
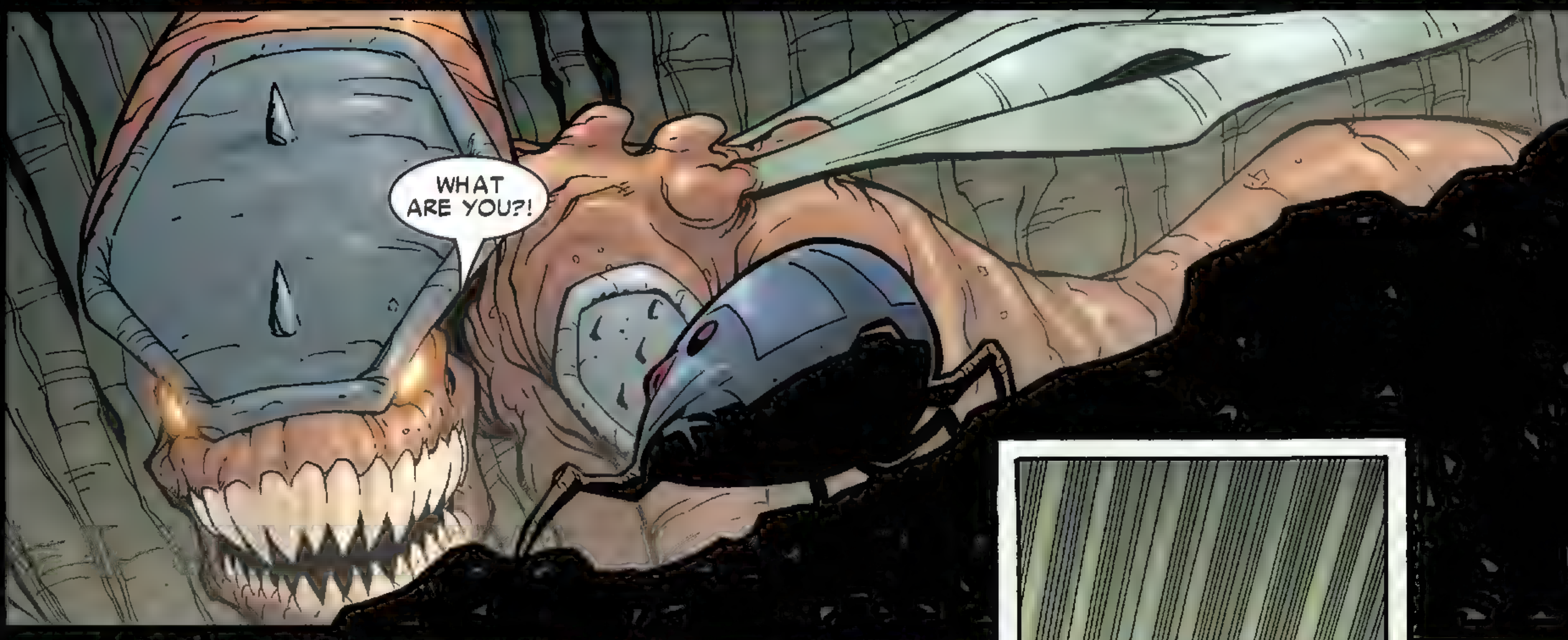
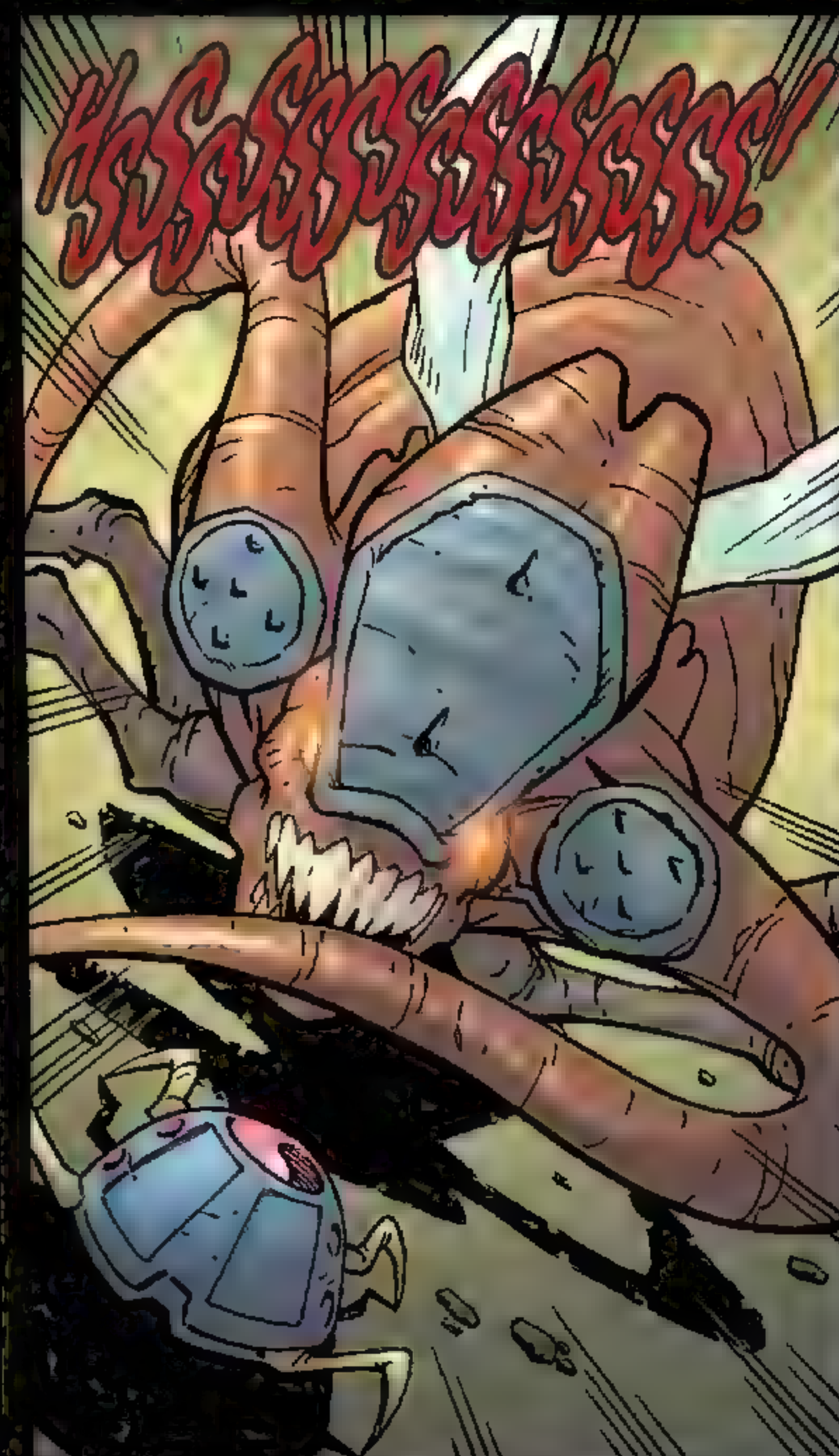
I DON'T
CARE WHAT YOU
GUYS ARE DOING,
BUT MY S.H.I.E.L.D.
TRANSPORT AND
I ARE LEAVING.
NOW.



PALADIN,
SHUT UP!



NO ONE
IS GOING
ANYWHERE.



SQUEEEEEE!

ZZARRKK!

HE ONLY
DELIVERED
IT.

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE
TO ME...

YOU WILL
LIVE, BUT YOU HAVE
BEEN...STERILIZED. YOU
WILL NEVER PLAGUE
THE EARTH-HIVE WITH
YOUR PROGENY...

I ALREADY
HAVE! YOUR
PRECIOUS HUMBUG
INCUBATES THEM
RIGHT NOW!

YOU THINK
WE WOULD SEND A
SUITABLE HOST TO
YOU? THE "HUMBUG"
IS POISONED. HE AND
YOUR PROGENY
ARE DOOMED.

NO...

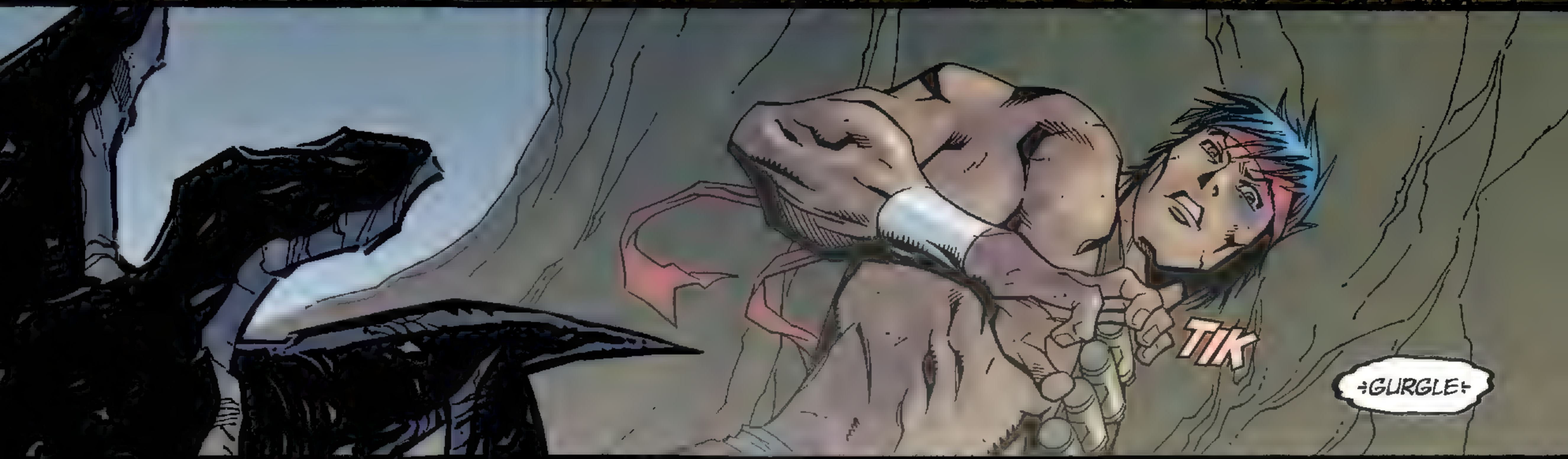
NO!

SCRATCH!



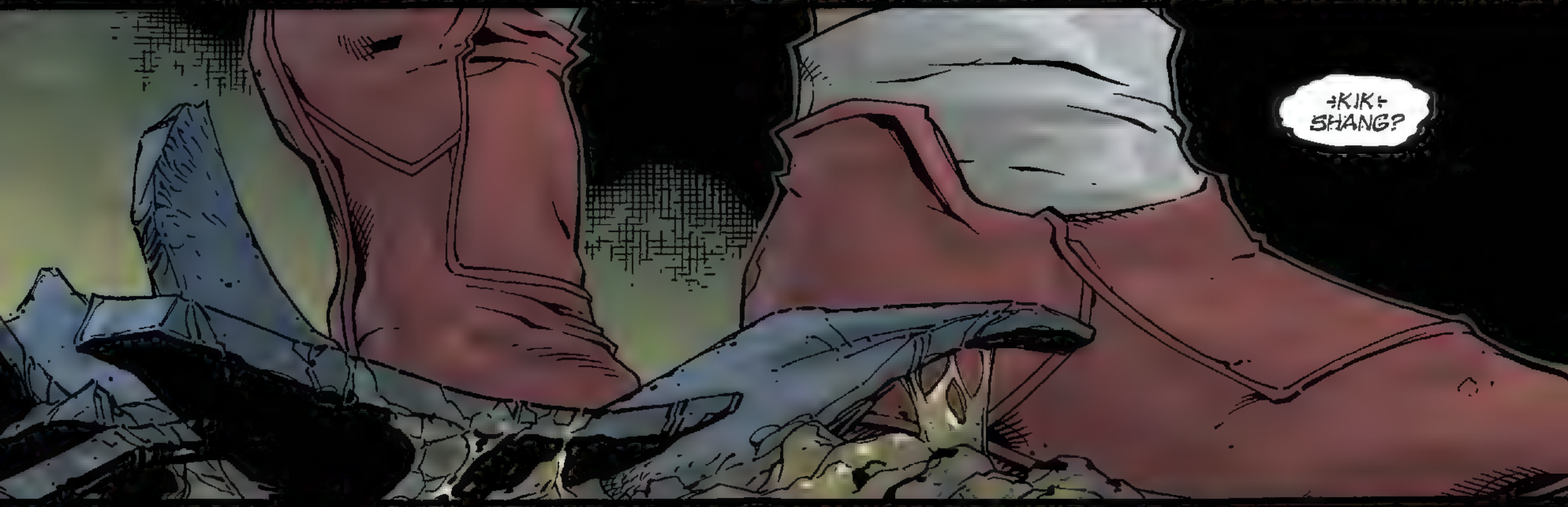
DEEP
DEEP

→KIK→ →KIK→
HUUUURGGG.

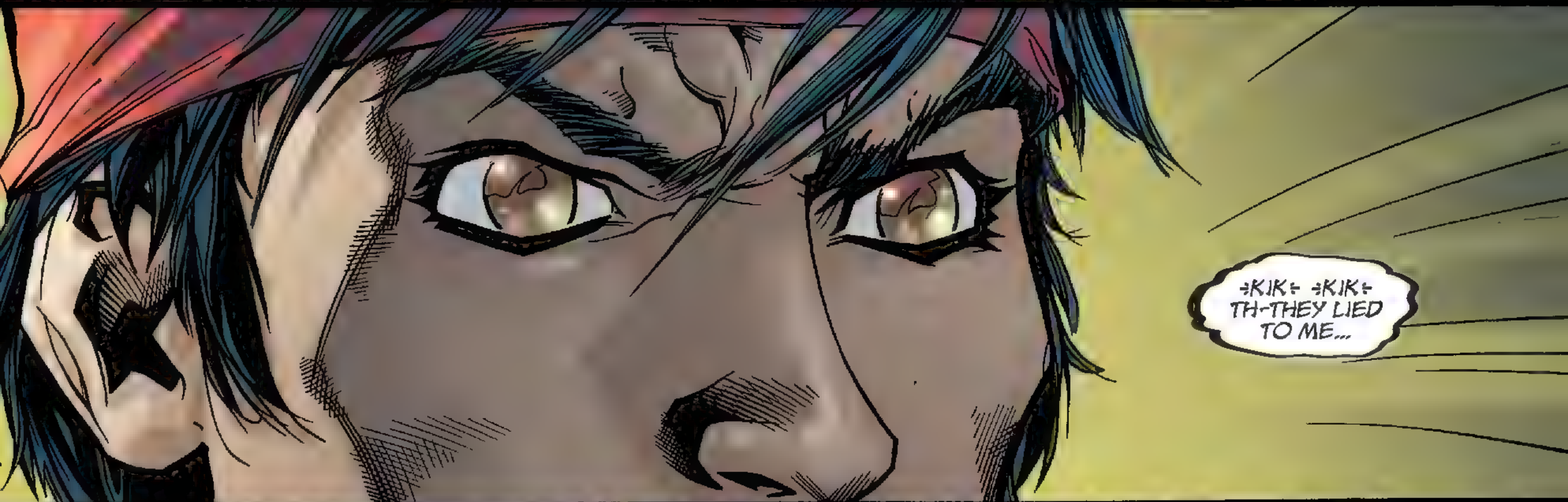


TIK

→GURGLE→



→KIK→
SHANG?



→KIK→ →KIK→
TH-THEY LIED
TO ME...



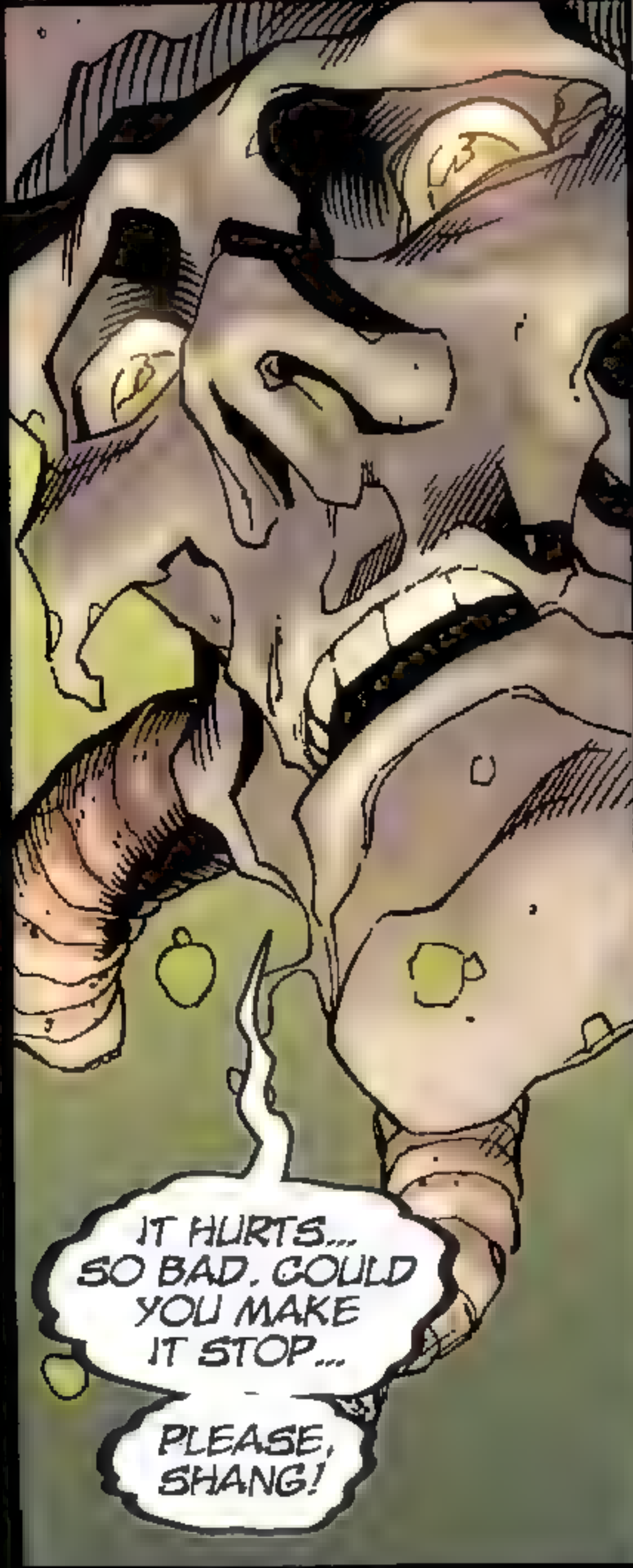
I-I'M NOT
ONE OF THEM,
SHANG. THEY USED
ME TO COLLECT
HER EGGS.



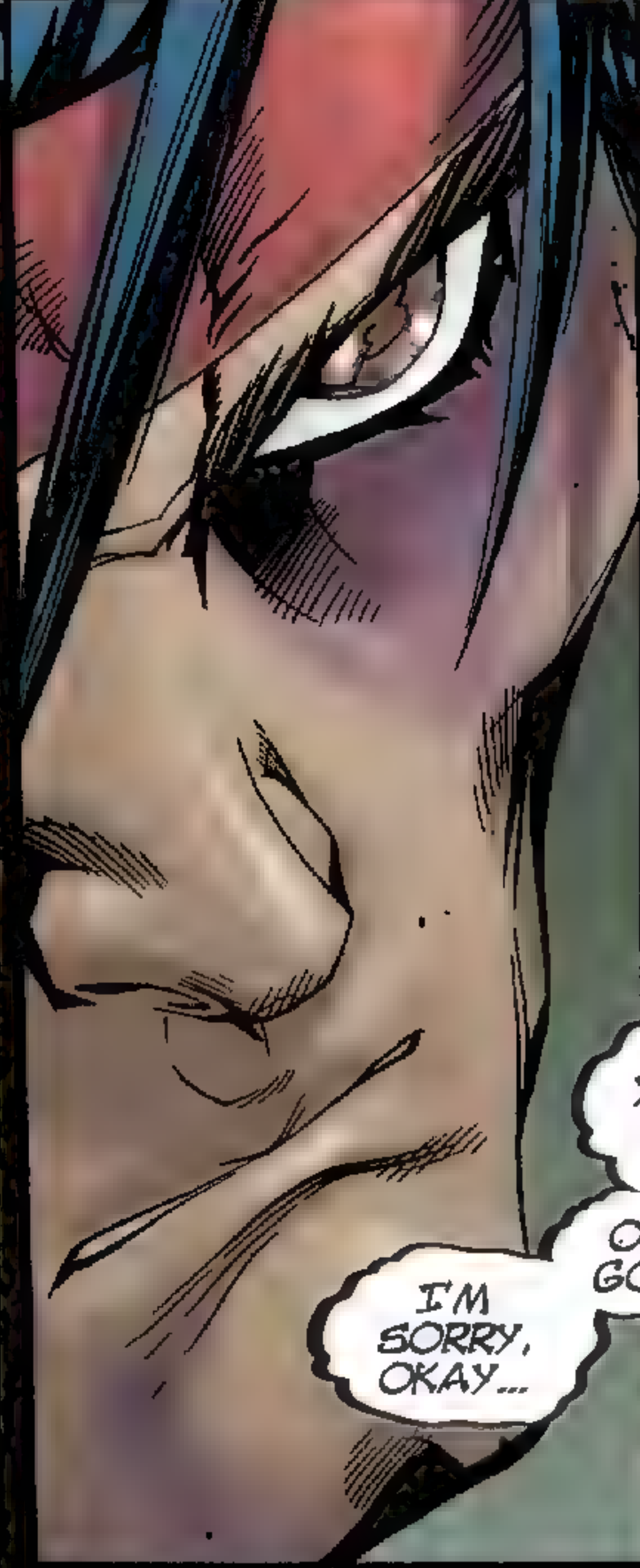
TH- THEY'RE DYING INSIDE ME. I CAN FEEL THEM.



I JUST WANTED TO BE PART OF THEIR KIK+ WORLD. BUT I'M JUST A TOOL---KAK+--- LIKE THE REST OF US.



IT HURTS... SO BAD. COULD YOU MAKE IT STOP... PLEASE, SHANG!

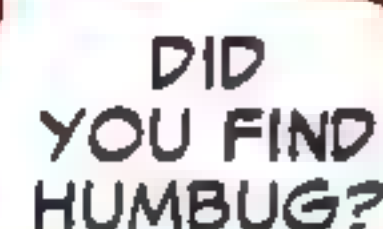


I'M SORRY, OKAY...



OH, GOD... YOU'LL HELP ME... RIGHT, SHANG?

OH, GOD.





LATER.

HELLO, YOU'VE REACHED OTIS WITH THE HEROES FOR HIRE.

DAMN. THEY MUST HAVE EVACUATED THE HQ. HOPE OTIS IS ALRIGHT. KIND OF.

CAN YOU GIVE US A RIDE OUT OF HERE, PALADIN?



THINK I'M DONE HERE. I GOT YOUR FRIENDS BACK FOR YOU...

JUST GOTTA COLLECT MY FEE...

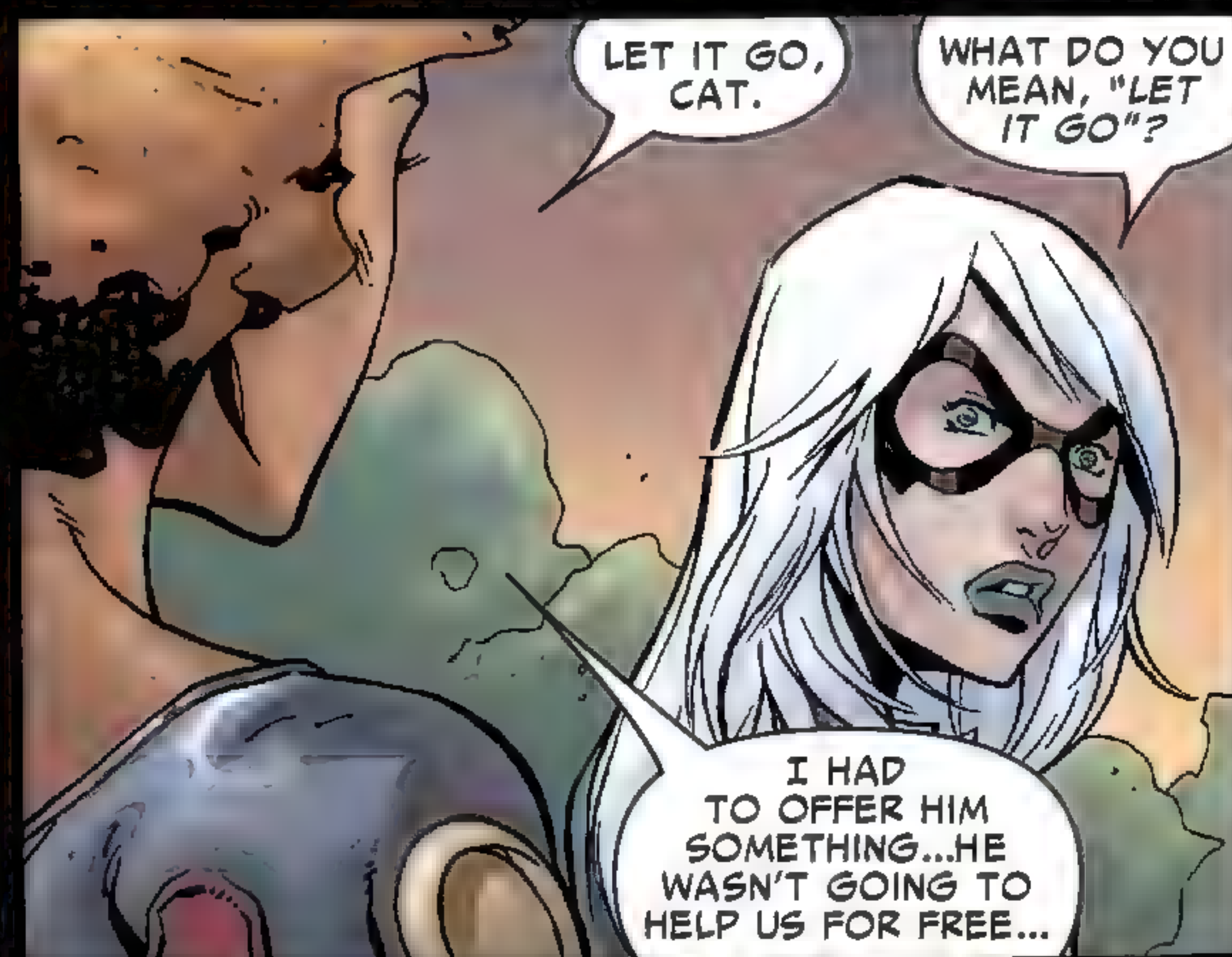
WHAT?



LET HIM GO!

HEY, A DEAL'S A DEAL.

WHAT DEAL?!



LET IT GO, CAT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "LET IT GO"?

I HAD TO OFFER HIM SOMETHING...HE WASN'T GOING TO HELP US FOR FREE...



YOU...YOU GAVE HIM MOONBOY?

WE WERE GOING TO GIVE HIM TO S.H.I.E.L.D. ANYWAY!

YEAH, WE WERE. WE RESCUED HIM AND IT'S OUR DECISION WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM!

HALF YOUR TEAM WOULD BE BUG FOOD IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, SWEETHEART. I DESERVE TO GET--

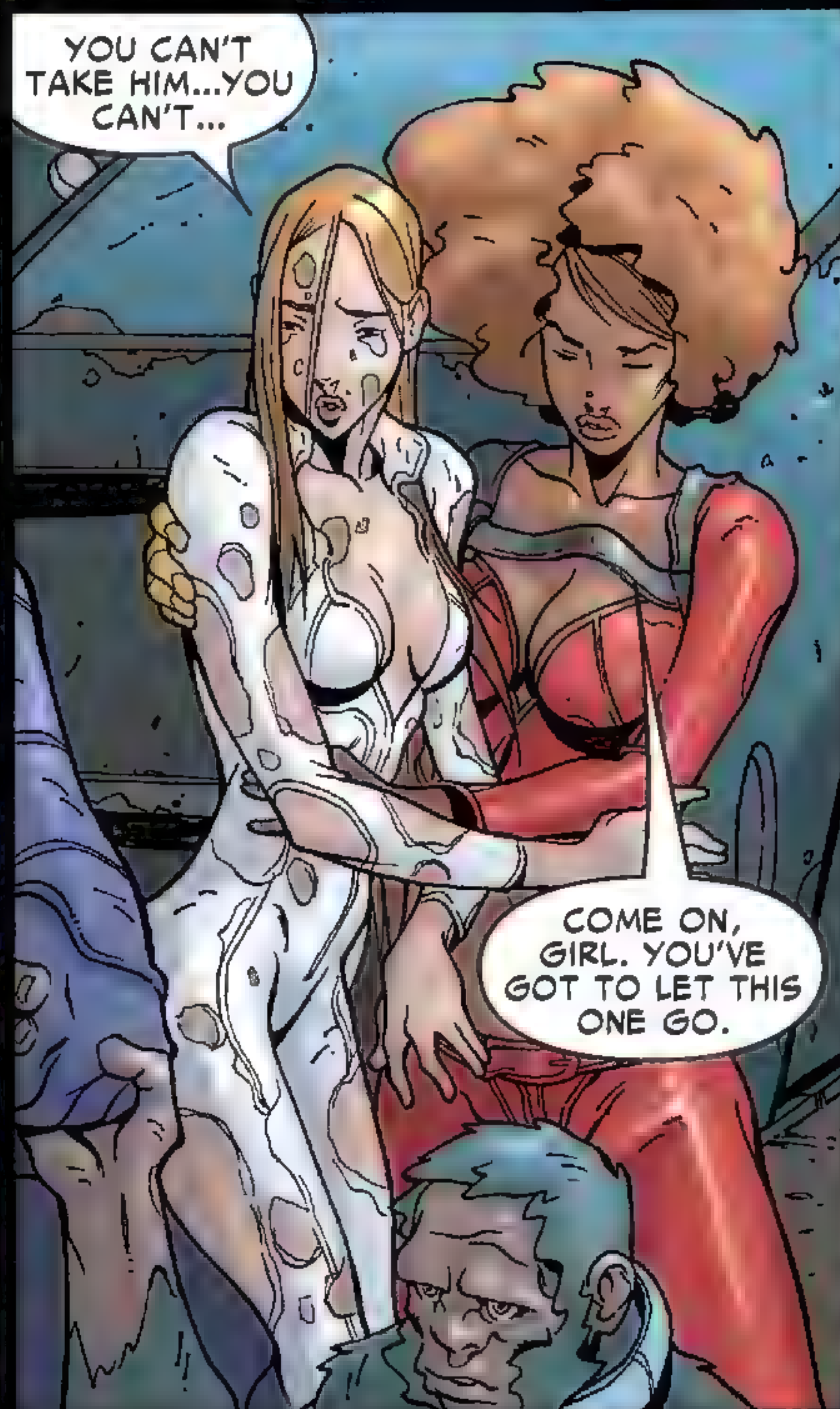


PAID?



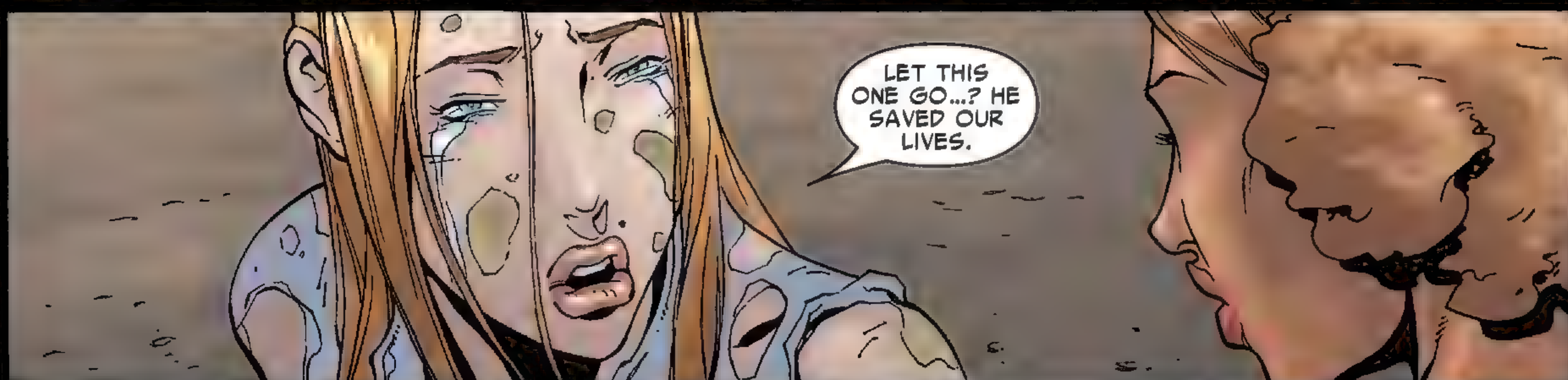
NO.

MISTY.



YOU CAN'T
TAKE HIM...YOU
CAN'T...

COME ON,
GIRL. YOU'VE
GOT TO LET THIS
ONE GO.



LET THIS
ONE GO...? HE
SAVED OUR
LIVES.



SHANG?! SHE'S GIVING OUR
MARK AWAY! THAT'S A MILLION
DOLLARS WE'RE NOT
GOING TO SEE!

I DON'T
CARE.



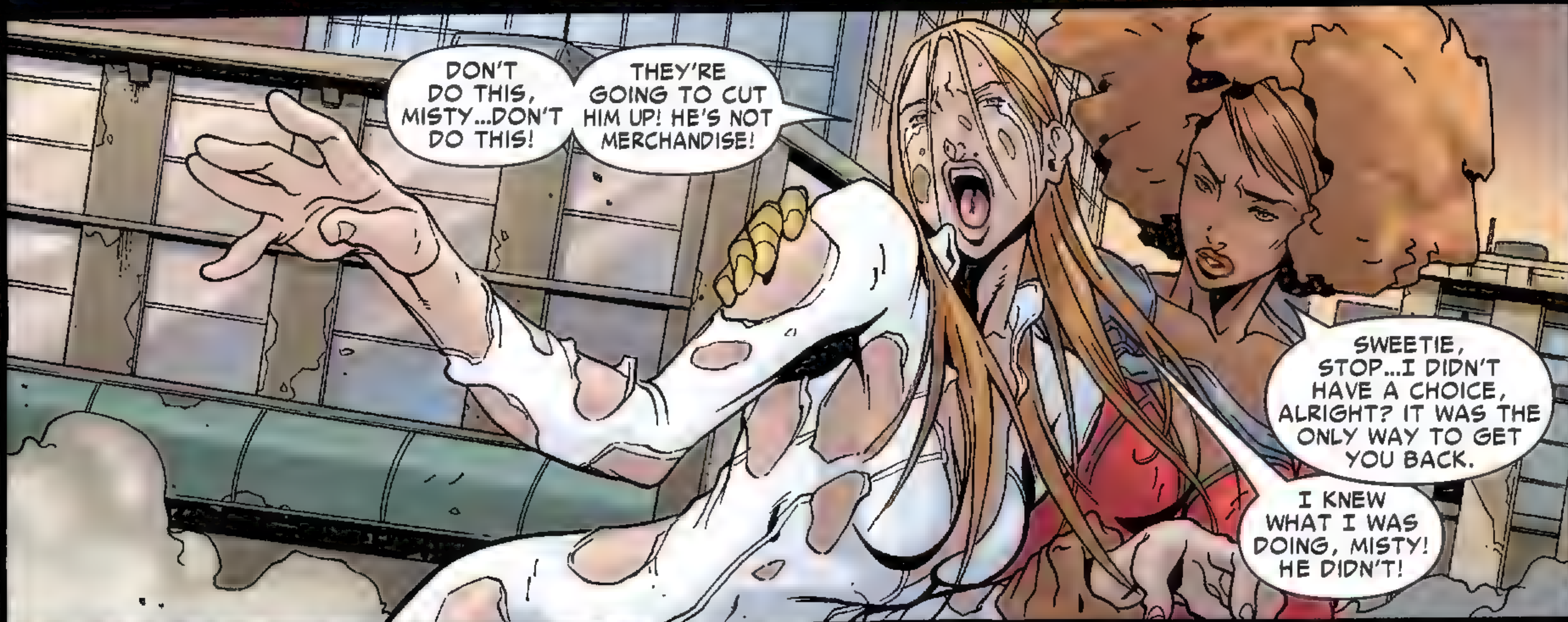
TODAY
HAS ALREADY
COST ME ALL I
CHERISHED.

YOU ALWAYS
CAME FOR ME,
SHANG...WHEN I GOT
IN TROUBLE, I MEAN...
YOU ALWAYS
PROTECTED
ME.



YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF ME, RIGHT? YOU'LL TAKE AWAY THE PAIN...

"NOW, JUST RELAX. YOU'RE TAKING THIS PERSONAL..."

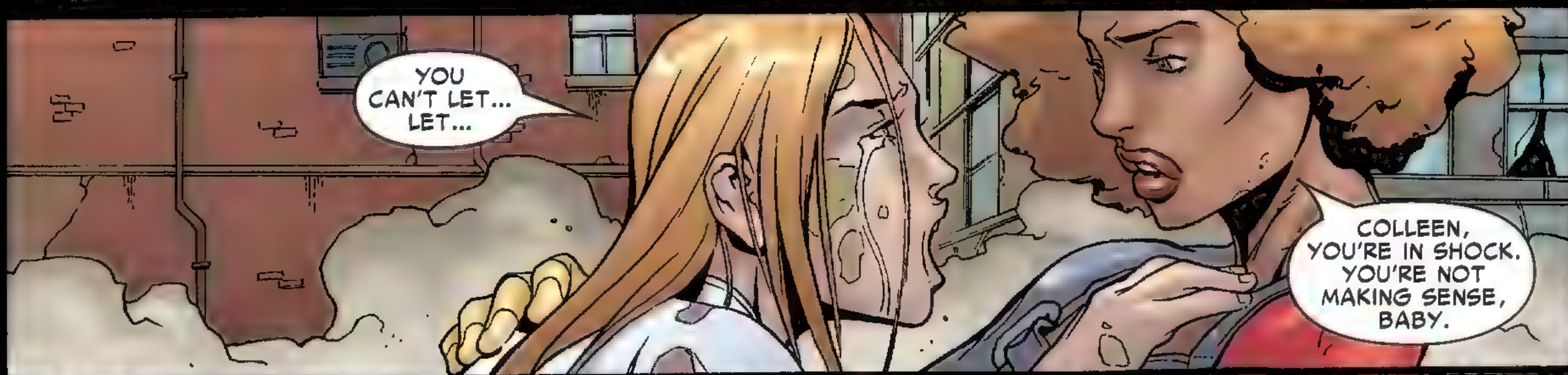


DON'T DO THIS, MISTY...DON'T DO THIS!

THEY'RE GOING TO CUT HIM UP! HE'S NOT MERCHANDISE!

SWEETIE, STOP...I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE, ALRIGHT? IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOU BACK.

I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING, MISTY! HE DIDN'T!



YOU CAN'T LET... LET...

COLLEEN, YOU'RE IN SHOCK. YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE, BABY.



PALADIN, YOU CAN'T DO THIS.

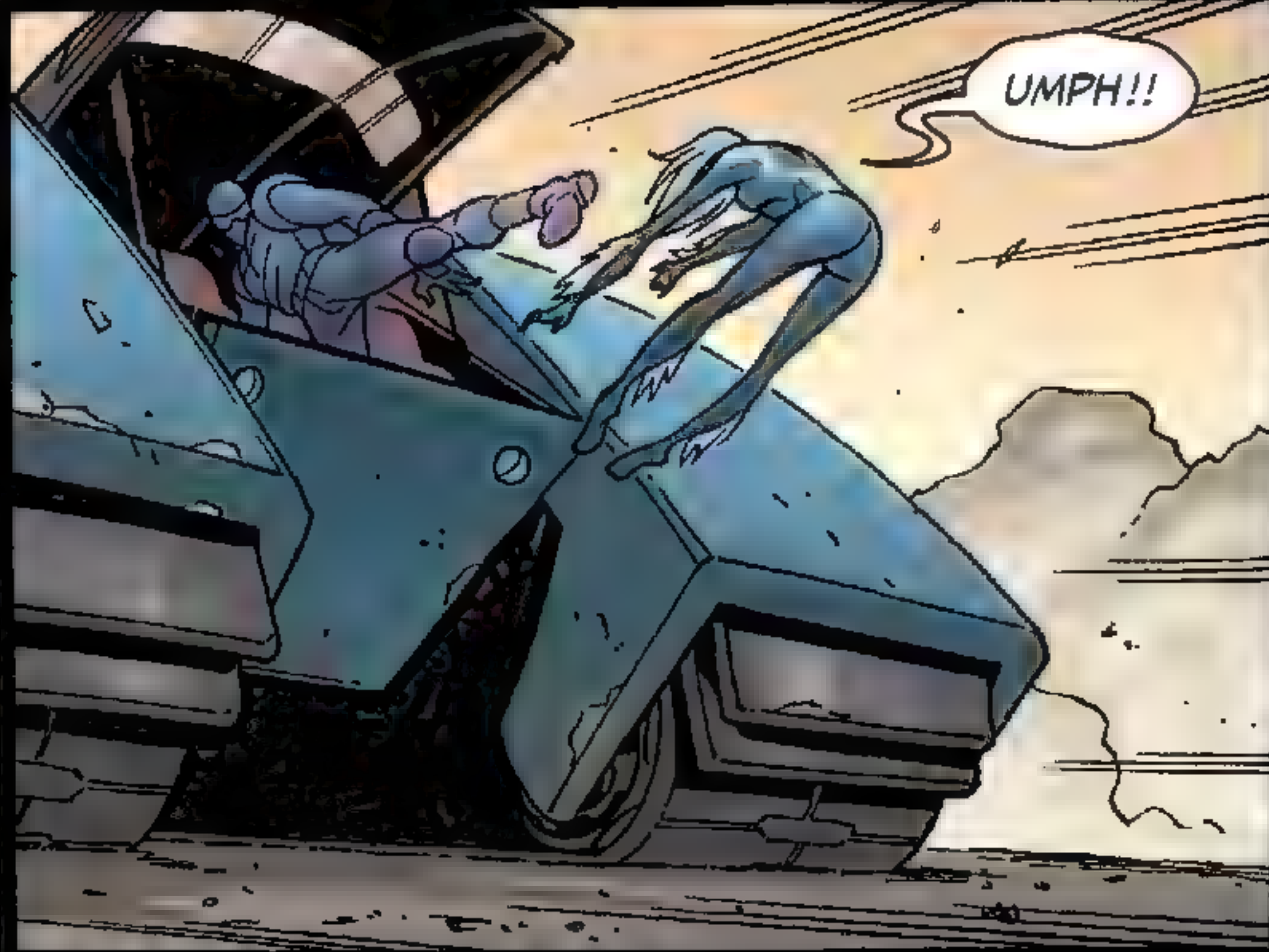
I MADE A DEAL.

I KNOW...



I KNOW I'VE BEEN ROUGH ON YOU, OKAY? BUT THAT'S BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN YOU.

I KNOW YOU DO, SWEETIE...



UMPH!!



AND I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT. I REALLY DO.



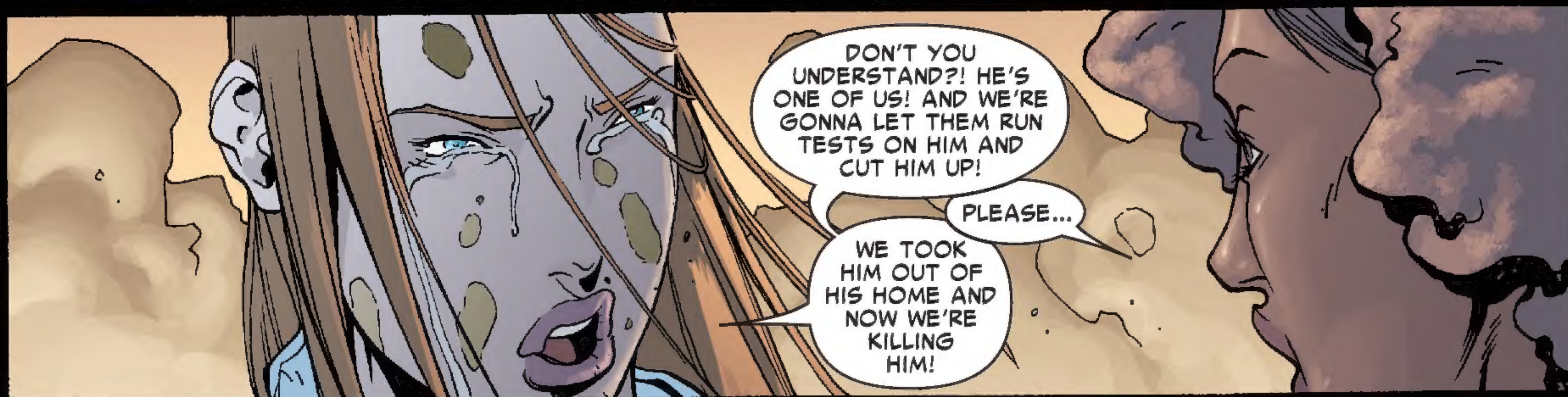
"BUT I CAN'T CHANGE WHAT I AM."

I JUST WANTED TO BE A PART OF THEIR WORLD...I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT COLLEEN...

OH, GOD... COLLEEN...



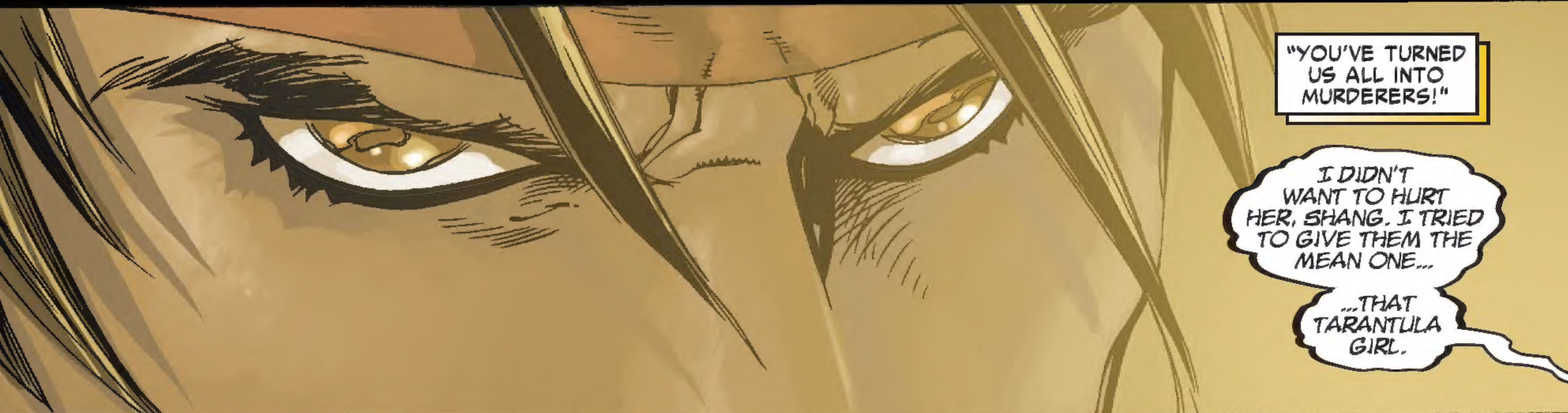
IT'S OVER, COLLEEN. IT'S ALL OVER. LET'S GO HOME.



DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?! HE'S ONE OF US! AND WE'RE GONNA LET THEM RUN TESTS ON HIM AND CUT HIM UP!

PLEASE...

WE TOOK HIM OUT OF HIS HOME AND NOW WE'RE KILLING HIM!

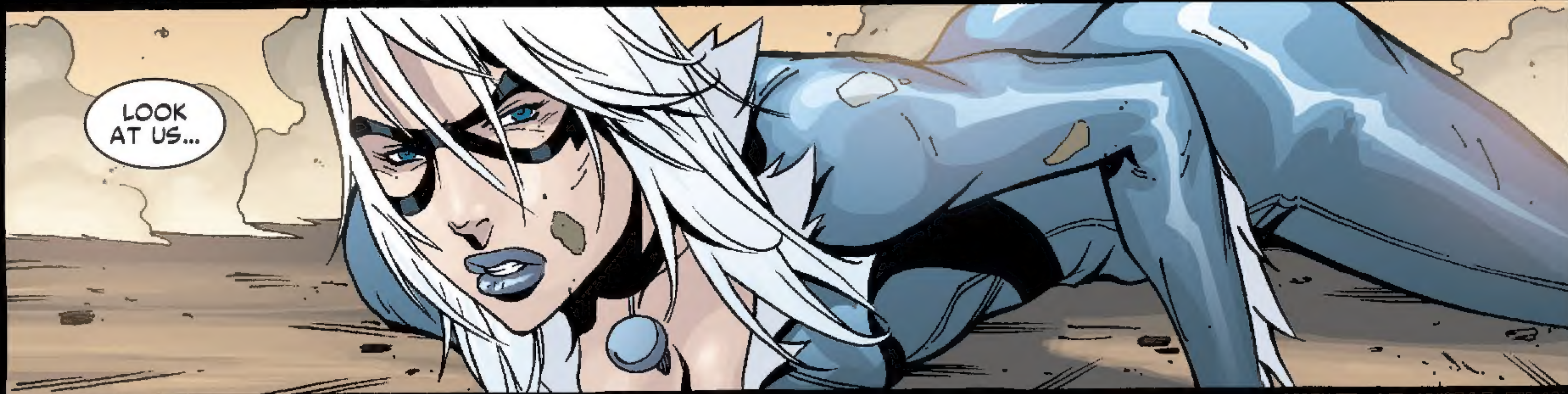


"YOU'VE TURNED US ALL INTO MURDERERS!"

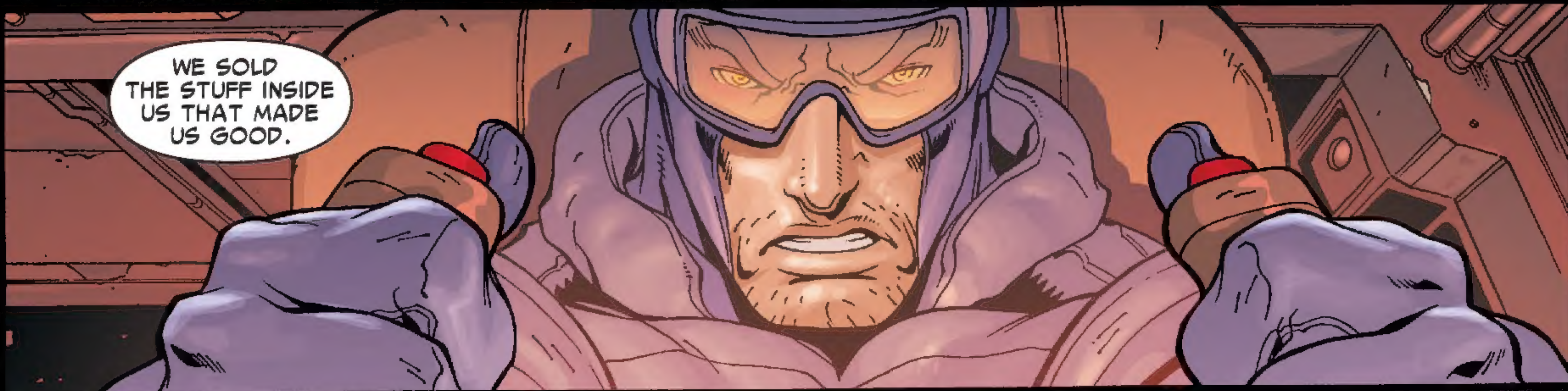
I DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HER, SHANG. I TRIED TO GIVE THEM THE MEAN ONE...

...THAT TARANTULA GIRL.





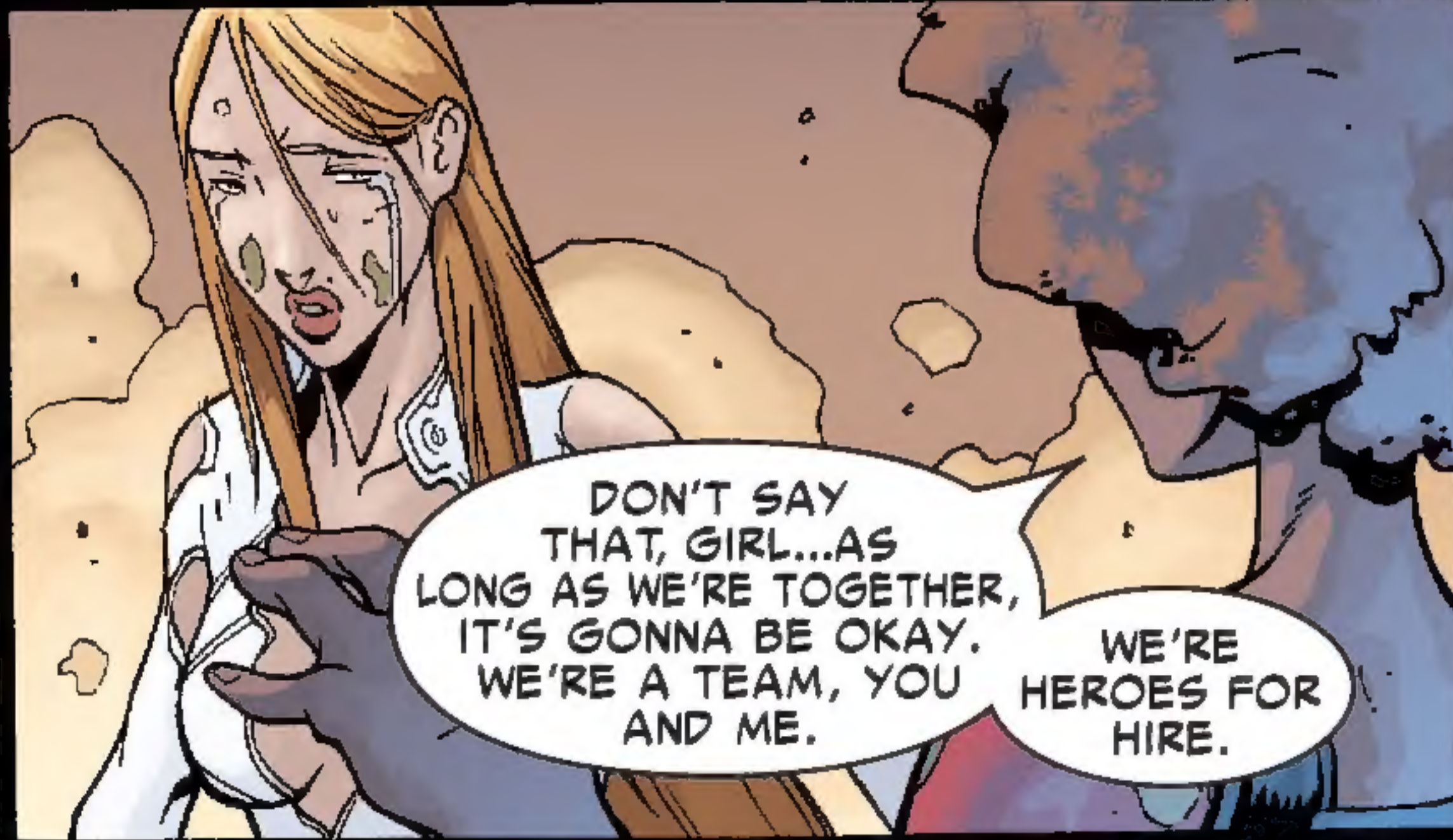
LOOK
AT US...



WE SOLD
THE STUFF INSIDE
US THAT MADE
US GOOD.



WE WENT
BAD, MISTY.
SOMEWHERE ALONG
THE WAY, WE
WENT BAD.



DON'T SAY
THAT, GIRL...AS
LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER,
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY.
WE'RE A TEAM, YOU
AND ME.

WE'RE
HEROES FOR
HIRE.



WE NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN HEROES
FOR HIRE,
MISTY.



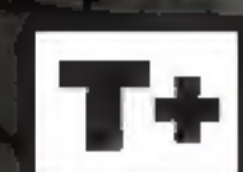
WE
SHOULD HAVE
JUST BEEN
HEROES.

THE
END

GO BEHIND THE BATTLE LINES OF MARVEL'S MASSIVE SUMMER SMASHFEST!

THE HEROES RETURN TO NEW YORK TO FIND IT THE FIRST BATTLEGROUND IN *WORLD WAR HULK*. WILL HUMBUG'S RECENTLY AMPLIFIED POWERS BE A FACTOR AGAINST HULK'S COMPATRIOTS, MIEK AND BROOD? CAN THE HEROES SALVE THE WOUNDS OF THEIR ADOPTIVE CITY AND STILL TURN A PROFIT? BOTH ANSWERS ARE "YES" IF MISTY KNIGHT HAS ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!

COLLECTING *HEROES FOR HIRE* #11-15 — WRITTEN BY ZEB WELLS AND ILLUSTRATED BY CLAY MANN.



MARVEL